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Soviet aide: Iranians want peace

LONDON (R) — A senior Soviet official said Wednesday the Iranian people increasingly wanted an end to the Gulf war with Iraq, and even the Tehran authorities realised the conflict could not be won. A London news conference, led by Mikhail Gorbachev, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Evaluation and Planning Directorate, echoed other Soviet spokesmen in saying the U.S. naval presence in the Gulf was liable to lead to unpredictable events like last Sunday's missile attack on the U.S. frigate Stark. Mr. Gorbachev called the seven-year-old Gulf conflict a senseless war which neither side could win. "The Iranian authorities considered they would be able to win, but now they know it's not the case," he said. Mr. Gorbachev said he had visited Tehran a couple of months ago. "My impression was that the understanding that the war must be finished perhaps was growing among the people," he said. Mr. Gorbachev, visiting London for talks with British Foreign Office officials, said the attack on the Stark by two Iraqi jets, although unprovoked, was "very dangerous and very unfortunate." Iraq has apologised over the incident, in which 37 American seamen died.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الراية

Secord seeks to block bank records

GENEVA (R) — Retired U.S. air force Major-General Richard Secord, a key figure in the Iran-contra scandal, has appealed to the Swiss supreme court to block Geneva bank documents requested by U.S. investigators. Swiss officials have agreed to the request, and say they will hand over documents recording transactions by about 20 key participants in the scandal which broke last November. The documents cover American, Iranian, Swiss and Saudi Arabian individuals and companies linked with bank accounts at Credit Suisse in Geneva. They are expected to give the first clear account of the flow of money in the Reagan administration's secret operation which sold arms to Iran and diverted profits to rebels fighting the Nicaraguan government. It was not clear when Gen. Secord, a key figure in the scandal, filed the appeal with the supreme court in Lausanne. The court could take months to issue a ruling.

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Envoy to Iraq sworn in

AMMAN (J.T.) — Retired Major General Hilmi Al Lawzi was sworn in on Wednesday before His Majesty King Hussein at the Royal Court as Jordan's ambassador to Iraq. The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh. Prior to this post, Mr. Lawzi served as Armed Forces assistant chief of staff.

Holiday declared

AMMAN (Petra) — All ministries, government departments and public institutions will observe an official holiday on Monday, May 25, to mark Independence Day, an official communique issued by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai said Wednesday.

Escapes elude Israeli police

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli troops reinforced the southern border Wednesday to prevent six Palestinians who broke out of jail three days ago from escaping into Egypt, a newspaper reported. In the daring jail break, the six saved off iron bars blocking a second story window, leapt into the courtyard and clambered over a wall to freedom. Israeli troops launched a massive manhunt for the fugitives, who are all from the occupied Gaza Strip, and warned the public they are dangerous. The six escaped Sunday from the prison in downtown Gaza City.

Former Libyan envoy attacked in Vienna

VIENNA (AP) — A former Libyan ambassador to Vienna, the target of a shooting two years ago, was struck and slightly injured Wednesday at a busy downtown square, a senior police official said. Police said at least one shot was fired during the assault, but it was unclear whether the injury was caused by a bullet. The attacker escaped on foot. A Libyan passport had been found on the scene, and it was assumed to have been lost by the attacker, police said. Police spokesmen identified the victim as Ezzeddin Ghadamsi, who resigned as ambassador to Vienna in 1980 after an apparent falling out with Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi. A police official who asked for anonymity said the passport found on the scene was made out to Mohammad S.A. Al Hag, born in Tripoli, Libya, in 1957. Mr. Ghadamsi, shot five times in an assault Feb. 28, 1985 by a lone gunman, had been hospitalized in critical condition with five bullet wounds to the chest and abdomen.

3 French fighter jets crash

PARIS (R) — Three French Mirage F-1 fighter planes crashed Wednesday in southeastern France while on a low-altitude training exercise, the Defence Ministry said. Two pilots were killed instantly and a third was missing after the crash outside the village of St. Chamond, near the city of Lyon, a ministry statement said. Air force command had launched an investigation to try to determine the cause of the accident, the most costly in terms of French military aircraft in recent memory, it said. The three planes, from the 30th fighter squadron based at Reims, were flying along a predetermined course as part of an exercise to test navigation skills at low altitude.

INSIDE

- U.S. to protect Kuwaiti ships despite Stark attack, page 2
- SSC opens new branches to enhance coverage, page 3
- Reagan wants early end to Gulf war, page 4
- Last California condor captured in bid to save species, page 5
- India agrees to play Israel in Davis Cup, page 6
- Egypt finds new oilfield, page 7
- Fijians go on anti-Indian rampage, page 8

Gorbachev reaffirms Soviet position on relations with Israel

U.S. reluctant to mediate Soviet-Israeli break

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, in an interview published on Wednesday, said Moscow would restore diplomatic relations with Israel only if the Jewish state changed its aggressive policies and there was progress for efforts for peace in the Middle East.



Mikhail Gorbachev

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, in an interview published on Wednesday, said Moscow would restore diplomatic relations with Israel only if the Jewish state changed its aggressive policies and there was progress for efforts for peace in the Middle East.

In remarks to the Italian Communist Party daily L'Unita, Mr. Gorbachev also dismissed Western fears that Moscow is trying to split the United States from Western Europe and said the division of Europe contributed to stability.

The Soviet leader said the Soviet Union could accept a neutral Afghanistan and rejected Chi-

na's view that the Kampuchean conflict was an obstacle to better Sino-Soviet relations.

On a possible summit with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, he echoed previous statements that substantive issues must be tackled.

"I won't play the tourist," he said, "but every politician must be a realist, and I think realism will win out."

On Israel, the Soviet leader remarked: "We don't have reason to assume a different attitude towards Israel than we do against any other country, except for one point — the aggressive policies of Israel in regards to the Arabs."

(Continued on page 3)

Dynamite blasts persist in Beirut despite crackdown

BEIRUT (AP) — Saboteurs ignoring a Syrian army crackdown on bombers set off five dynamite explosions in west Beirut on Wednesday wounding a pedestrian.

Police said gunmen in two speeding cars hurled sticks and bundles of dynamite into garbage dumps causing loud explosions and raising the number of such attacks to 116 since the Syrians moved in Feb. 22.

It was the first time that the dynamite blasts, which police say are aimed at undermining the Syrian initiative, have claimed any casualties. But three car-bomb explosions have killed eight people and wounded 19 since the Syrian intervention.

The first explosion occurred at 10:05 a.m. and the others followed within 10 minutes. Two were set off in the Tellet Al Khayyat neighbourhood.

A man, police said, was wounded in an attack near a bank on the Corniche Mazraa commercial thoroughfare.

The new attack came on the heels of the arrest of Druze militia official, Imad Saab, and eight of his aides in connection with the bombing spree.

Mr. Saab, a Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) security officer, admitted in an interview with the state television Tuesday night that he had engineered 30 of the explosions since 7,500 Syrian soldiers deployed in west Beirut to end militia anarchy.

He said he wanted to "create confusion only" and claimed that Palestinians in the Beirut refugee camp of Mar Elias provided the dynamite.

Most Palestinians in Lebanon support Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat who has been at odds with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad for four years.

Pro-Syrian Lebanese leaders have charged Mr. Arafat was behind the bombings to discredit the Syrians.

Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan, Syria's military intelligence chief in Lebanon, charged on Monday that Mr. Saab was taking orders from the PSP's overall security chief, Jamal Karara, known as Abu Haitham.

In the interview, Mr. Saab said: "Abu Haitham issued the orders. He told us he would execute us if we failed to obey."

The PSP withheld comment. It was not clear who conducted the interview with Mr. Saab or where he spoke. The interviewer did not appear on camera and the voice was not that of the familiar Lebanese television announcers.

Security sources said Mr. Karara served with Mr. Arafat's Force-17, an elite unit of intelligence officers, before the PLO withdrew from Lebanon in 1982.

Labour Party Secretary Uzi Baram told reporters: "At this moment, there is no majority in the Knesset (parliament) for early elections. It can happen in two, two-and-a-half months and then elections can be held at the end of 1987."

Shamir vows to fight government break-up

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Wednesday Israeli efforts to convene a Middle East peace conference were dead and declared that he would fight hard to prevent a break-up of the government over the issue.

"The initiative of an international conference is already nonexistent. In order to do a far-reaching thing like this, the support of all the government is needed," Mr. Shamir said in an interview on armed forces radio.

Mr. Shamir is firmly opposed to plans by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to convene a U.N.-sponsored conference which would pave the way for negotiations between Israel and the Arabs.

"There may be a demolition team, but I do not think it will succeed in breaking up the government. I am guarding the national unity government and hope I will prevent all efforts to sabotage it," Mr. Shamir said.

His right-wing Likud bloc says such a conference would force Israel to return the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Peres' Labour Party has repeatedly called for early elections over Likud's refusal to approve his plan and is struggling to muster the 61 parliamentary votes needed to bring about an early poll.

Labour Party Secretary Uzi Baram told reporters: "At this moment, there is no majority in the Knesset (parliament) for early elections. It can happen in two, two-and-a-half months and then elections can be held at the end of 1987."

The coalition united on Tuesday to defeat no-confidence motions on Middle East peace moves despite the cabinet deadlock over the issue.

Political analysts said Labour had the votes to pass a no-confidence motion but feared Likud would then have formed a narrow government without it.

Labour and its allies have 58 votes in the 120-seat house — enough to top the 57 votes of Likud and its allies but short of the 61-vote majority required to force an election before they are scheduled to take place in November 1988.

Explaining the Labour vote, party parliamentary leader Rafi Edry told reporters that in a speech for the government Likud Transport Minister Haim Corfu had not rebutted the subject of an international conference and Mr. Peres' programme to advance the peace process.

Fresh moves reported towards healing Arab rifts

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti newspapers Wednesday reported plans for fresh diplomatic efforts to heal rifts between Iraq and Syria, and Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Al Qabas, which earlier reported President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad held secret talks aimed at a rapprochement three weeks ago, said fresh tensions had since surfaced.

Quoting informed Arab diplomatic sources in Damascus, it said Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz met secretly with Syria's Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam last Sunday and agreed to hold further talks designed to set the stage for a formal summit between their leaders.

The officials met, the sources said, following a successful trip by King Hussein to Baghdad and Damascus last week after renewed tension between the two countries.

Al Anba newspaper, quoting an unnamed member of the Palestine National Council (PNC), said a PLO envoy would visit Amman within the next two days to promote fresh links on Middle East peace moves.

It said the envoy of PLO leader Yasser Arafat, expected to be either his political adviser Hani Al Hassan or PLO Executive Committee member Jamal Al Sourani, might be accompanied by Osama Al Baz, a top adviser to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The PLO envoy, the daily said, would carry a message from Mr.

Arafat to King Hussein relating to "a need to clarify (ties) and start a new page of political coordination between the PLO and Amman on the basis of the February (11, 1985) agreement."

Mr. Arafat, in an Italian television interview broadcast Tuesday night and a separate interview with Epoca magazine, said the recent unifying of PLO factions would help, not hinder, efforts to stage an international conference on Mideast peace.

Mr. Arafat said he felt the reunification of the PLO would be a positive factor in peace efforts, because "the unity of the PLO will help the unity of Arab nations."

"We Arab countries are living in the same period that you in Italy saw before the unification of Italy," he said.

He also said the Palestine National Council (PNC), which met in Algiers last month, had passed "a specific resolution" to participate in an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

The PLO leader said his group's relations at present were "difficult" with Syria, as well as with Egypt, but he described the friction with Egypt as "just a passing cloud."

"We have the fullest trust in the wisdom and patriotism of Mubarak," he said.

On Libya, Mr. Arafat said there had been "misunderstandings" in the past, but he praised Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi for "working seriously to push the elements outside the PLO to reunite with the PLO."

Mine wounds 4 Israeli soldiers in Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Four Israeli soldiers were wounded Wednesday when a roadside bomb exploded in South Lebanon as their patrol passed by, and a Lebanese resistance group claimed responsibility for the attack.

The incident occurred in the central sector of Israel's self-designated "security zone," a 10-to-15-kilometre wide area patrolled by the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia and backed by about 1,000 Israeli soldiers.

In the South Lebanese port city of Sidon, the pro-Israeli guerrilla organisation, Islamic Resistance, issued a statement saying its fighters had planted the roadside bomb near Nabatieh town.

It said the bomb exploded as a mechanised Israeli patrol passed by, and that an Israeli Merkava tank was destroyed and its crew killed.

An Israeli spokesman said in

Tel Aviv that the blast was apparently triggered by remote-control. He said four Israeli soldiers were wounded.

Israel has pledged strong retaliation for attacks against its troops in the "security zone."

In the last few weeks, Israel has mounted an air offensive against Palestinian camps near the South Lebanese port of Sidon after a series of Katyusha rocket attacks and attempts to infiltrate the Galilee area.

Sidon residents said Israeli warplanes on Wednesday swept low over the city and nearby Palestinian refugee camps.

Lebanese police said six warplanes crashed the sound barrier over Sidon and the camps of Ajn Al Hilweh and Mieh Mieh in repeated low runs at 5:20 a.m.

Police said Palestinian fighters fired Soviet-made surface-to-air missiles, SAM-7s, at the jets. But all missed.

Iraq reports downing Iranian F-4 in dogfight

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi warplanes on Wednesday shot down an Iranian F-4 jet fighter in a dog-fight over the northern Gulf, a Baghdad military spokesman said.

He said the Iranian aircraft was spotted early Wednesday morning near a disputed Iraqi oil terminal. Iraqi planes engaged it and it was seen falling in flames into the sea, he said.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Iraqi jets flew 58 sorties during the day, striking Iranian military concentrations and other targets.

Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said an industrial unit on the outskirts of the southern Iranian city of Ahwaz was damaged by rockets fired by Iraqi jets. There were no casualties, IRNA said.

The Iranian agency said Iranian warships on Tuesday had

intercepted and searched a total of 23 foreign tankers and freighters in the Strait of Hormuz, the southern entrance to the Gulf. All the vessels were allowed to proceed when no Iraqi-bound cargo was found aboard, it said.

The agency also reported that "several Iraqi gunboats" were damaged and were forced to flee when they attempted to attack Iranian positions in the Khor Abdullah creek, in southernmost Iraq Tuesday night.

The Iraqi agency said President Saddam Hussein sent a special message to Iraqi naval forces Wednesday congratulating them for foiling an attempt by Iranian warships to attack Iraqi positions in the same area Monday.

At the United Nations, Iraq charged in a letter published on Wednesday that Iran employed mustard gas and phosgene against Iraqi troops.

Captain of missile-hit American frigate says he had only seconds of warning

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — The captain of the USS Stark said Wednesday he did not know a missile was heading for his warship until a lookout spotted it only seconds before it rammed into the vessel, killing 37 seamen.

Commander Glenn Brindel said the ship lost its tracking ability for about 30 seconds after the missile hit, then a second missile struck as the crew was trying to shift the defensive system from manual to automatic.

In his first public comment about the Iraqi attack Sunday, Cmdr. Brindel also said he was convinced the attack was a mistake.

He said his crew spotted the Iraqi warplane on radar, but not the missiles, at least one of which was a French-made Exocet.

"The aircraft launched the missiles, I believe, at a significantly close range, where only a matter of seconds were able to be given for defensive measures to be put into effect," he said. "And we did not detect the separation of the

radar of the missile from the aircraft, which would be one means of detecting hostile intent."

An engineer who survived the Iraqi missile attack on the USS Stark said Wednesday he was woken up in his bunk by a large explosion, then his crew quarters were engulfed in flames.

"I heard the first explosion and I didn't know what caused it," said Petty Officer Michael O'Keefe, 27. "I thought we had lost the engine."

"Then when I smelled smoke I felt there was trouble," followed by a second explosion. He saw "fireballs," he said the engineer.

He was brought to a news conference by Cmdr. Brindel who said Petty Officer O'Keefe had performed many "heroic" acts to save some of his fellow crewmen and help contain the disaster.

The news conference was held about four hours after a military C-141 starlifter left Bahrain on the way to the United States with

the bodies of 35 sailors. Two other seamen are missing and presumed dead.

A senior Pentagon official, Rear Admiral Grant Sharp, was due in Bahrain Wednesday to head an investigation into the attack, which both Iraq and the United States have described as an unintentional error.

Cmdr. Brindel said one of the two missiles was definitely a French-made Exocet, but from the wreckage it was possible the second was a laser-guided missile.

Such missiles are much harder to detect because they do not send out radio beams.

Cmdr. Brindel said he wept at a brief airport ceremony on Wednesday morning to honour the dead crewmen but was consoled by the widow of one of them.

Barbara Kiser told her husband was "with the Lord, not in the casket and the Lord had reasons for what happened."

U.S. Ambassador Sam Zakhem showed reporters a let-

ter Mrs. Kiser sent to the Iraqi pilot who fired the missile containing a "message of peace" and she also sent a copy of the New Testament.

The pilot has not been publicly identified by Iraq. Mr. Zakhem said he would give the letter and book to the Iraqi ambassador in Bahrain.

Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said Tuesday that unless the United Nations Security Council pressures Iran to make peace with Iraq, the Gulf war "will bring more tragedies" like the Stark attack.

"We hope the Security Council will be encouraged to do something," he told a news conference in his Baghdad office.

He said he hoped "this unfortunate incident will serve to push circumstances toward an end to the war."

Mr. Aziz also said fighter pilot who attacked the Stark thought he was firing on an Iranian target. Mr. Aziz said the Iraqi pilot

(Continued on page 3)

Calero says he met Reagan but denies discussing aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nicaraguan rebel leader Adolfo Calero testified Wednesday he met President Ronald Reagan three or four times during a two-year ban on U.S. military aid to his forces, but never mentioned secret U.S. efforts to aid the contras.

"No, sir, no," Mr. Calero replied at the Iran-contra hearings when asked if he and Mr. Reagan discussed either Oliver North's activities or the contras' efforts to raise funds from foreign sources as a replacement for U.S. aid cut off by Congress.

Testifying during a two-hour morning session, Mr. Calero said he received no indication that Mr. Reagan knew of proceeds from secret U.S. arms sales to Iran being diverted to the rebels. Mr. Reagan has denied any knowledge of the diversion.

In an opening statement before he submitted to questions, Mr. Calero lectured the House of Representatives and Senate investigating committees about the importance of the contra cause. He said American resolve was

at stake in the war against the Sandinistas, adding, "It is the United States that will win or lose."

Mr. Calero told one questioner that only a "minor, very minor" part of the Iran arms sale proceeds were eventually received by the contras.

Retired air force Major General Richard Secord, who appeared before the committees two weeks ago, said he spent \$3.5 million in proceeds on the contras, although much of that presumably went to sustaining a secret arms-running operation.

Testifying under oath, Mr. Calero said he raised \$33.7 million for the contras during the two-year period, adding that he told Lieutenant-Colonel North "practically everything" about the weapons he bought with the funds.

"I had no reservation. I had full confidence and trust in him," Mr. Calero told the congressional Iran-contra hearing. He said the two men met about 50 times during the two years.

Frustrated losers cry foul in Philippine elections

MANILA (Agencies) — Frustrated losers on the left and right joined sections of the military on Wednesday in battering President Corazon Aquino with accusations of cheating in the Philippine elections as members of her coalition bickered over how to divide the spoils.

As right-wingers continued their protest campaign, leaders of a leftist coalition said vote-rigging and intimidation in last week's election could push previously non-violent supporters into the arms of communist rebels.

Senior defence officials said a letter from a group of officers expressing "deep concern" over the election appeared genuine. Official vote tallies, nearly half over, continued to give Aquino crushing dominance in the new two-house congress.

Analysts said continuing allegations of fraud have ended much of the elation which saw the May 11 vote hailed by independent poll-watchers as perhaps the cleanest and fairest in Philippine history.

Election officials and independent observers acknowledge some cheating but dismiss accusations that the poll was systematically rigged.

Without waiting for final vote counts, apparently successful candidates from different factions in Mrs. Aquino's loose multi-party coalition have begun frantic lobbying amongst themselves to try to secure the important role of speaker of the house of representatives.

The opposition Grand Alliance for Democracy (GAD), led by former Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, has charged massive fraud in the election. Mrs. Aquino has called the election the cleanest and fairest in Philippine history.

On Tuesday, the supreme court ordered the administration campaign staff to respond by next Monday to a petition filed by the alliance asking that the election be nullified.

An alliance of leftist parties also denounced the election as a fraud.

U.S. to guard Kuwaiti ships despite Stark attack

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has served notice that its warships will stay in the Gulf to protect Kuwaiti tankers despite a missile attack on the U.S. frigate Stark in which 37 American sailors were killed.

President Reagan told the U.S. navy in the Gulf to shoot in self-defence as developments in the region set off questions in Congress about the American role there.

Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger named Rear Admiral Grant Sharp Tuesday to head a military inquiry into the attack on the Stark by at least one Iraqi jet which fired one or two Exocet missiles.

A State Department spokeswoman said plans were going ahead to put 11 Kuwaiti tankers under the American flag to protect them in the Gulf, a battle-ground in the 6½-year-old war between Iran and Iraq.

"Our interests in the region aren't changed," nor "is the threat to neutral commercial shipping and to the free flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz," spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said.

With the Stark out of action, the United States now has two guided missile frigates and three guided missile destroyers, as well as the command ship Lathrop, in the Gulf.

The ships have no air cover but the aircraft carrier Constellation is on its way to the area through the Indian Ocean and its fighters could defend the warships by next week.

Officials did not say when the United States expected to take up

have to go in harm's way from time to time."

Kuwaiti paper blames Reagan

Meanwhile, a Kuwaiti newspaper launched a fierce attack on President Reagan's policies Wednesday in the first response in the northern Gulf emirate to Sunday's air strike by Iraq on the Stark.

Kuwait has not commented officially on the attack, which killed 37 crewmen, but an editorial in Al Anba, a moderate daily usually friendly to the West, said: "We consider President Reagan responsible for what happened."

Addressing Mr. Reagan, it said: "You have contributed to this (Iran-Iraq) war directly and indirectly, in fomenting, escalating and continuing the conflict."

"You have supplied Iran with arms to escalate the war, to continue its attacks on Iraqi territory and reinforce Iran's arrogant refusal to respond to calls for peace."

Diplomats said Kuwait, which supports Iraq in the war, would regard the attack on the Stark as something with which it was not directly concerned.

Al Anba accused Mr. Reagan of closing his ears to Islamic and Arab calls for Washington to lend its weight to efforts to end the war, in which Iranian forces are entrenched in Iraq's Fao peninsula only a few miles from Kuwait.

Moscow treated its Arab friends as allies, it said, but Washington viewed them "sometimes... as enemies, giving priority to preferred friends Israel and others."

Argentina to export nuclear technology to Iran

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies) — Argentina will provide Iran with nuclear technology in a deal worth about \$5 million, a spokesman for the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) has said.

"A contract was signed earlier this month and the technology will be delivered in about a year and a half," Roberto Orstein, the CNEA's international affairs manager, told Reuters.

Mr. Orstein said Argentina would provide the technology, including a new core, for an experimental reactor at Tehran University.

It will allow the reactor to function on 20 per cent enriched uranium in keeping with current international safeguards, he said. The reactor has since 1967 been working on 90 per cent enriched uranium.

Talks between Argentina and Iran began about 18 months ago after the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency asked Argentina and other countries whether they could provide the technology to modify the reactor in Tehran, Mr. Orstein said.

He said there were good possibilities for further deals of the same nature with other countries.

The local foreign trade weekly, Neustra, said Argentina was also holding talks with Albania, Indonesia and Morocco to export nuclear technology.

Argentina already has bilateral contracts with Peru and Algeria, Mr. Orstein said.

The Iranian reactor was built by United Nuclear Corp. of the United States but the U.S. government cut off supplies of highly enriched uranium after the Iranian revolution of the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Argentina already is training engineers for the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran, so the contract is considered a chance for the Argentine government to gain political influence in the Middle East.

Mr. Estrada said negotiations for the contract took place over 18 months.

Argentina's nuclear industry is Latin America's most advanced. Argentina has two nuclear power reactors.

Despite risk, ships queue to enter Gulf war zone

FUJAIRAH, United Arab Emirates (R) — Sixty-five tankers are now lying off Fujairah and nearby Khor Fakkan, many ready to sail at a moment's notice into the Gulf war zone despite the risk of missile attack by Iran or Iraq.

Tanker silhouettes dot the horizon and ship radios crackle as harbour master Roger Turnbull directs another vessel to anchor off the quiet port just outside the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf.

"We're out of the war zone, which is what makes it so attractive," said Capt. Turnbull.

More than 200 ships have been hit in the Gulf, with the loss of more than 100 seamen, since the Iran-Iraq war spilled over into international sealanes three years ago.

The highest casualty toll from a single attack was the 37 U.S. sailors killed in Sunday's Iraqi strike on the U.S. frigate Stark near Bahrain.

Fujairah, 140 kilometres from the mouth of the Gulf, is a safe haven outside the normal range of Iraqi and Iranian planes or

gunboats.

Tankers spend anything from six hours to two months at anchor undergoing repairs, replenishing fuel and provisions or waiting for orders to pick up a cargo of crude oil, refined products or gas.

"They wait for their owners to find them a charter. There is no use waiting off Norway or Greece if the market is here in the Middle East," Capt. Turnbull said.

"It's a good place to wait," said a Norwegian captain who for security reasons declined to give his name or that of his tanker.

"It's safe and it's easy to get supplies."

Almost one-fifth of the non-Communist World's crude oil is shipped from the Gulf and Fujairah-based shipping agents say more than 40 tankers a day pass through the Strait of Hormuz.

The chances of a given tanker being hit are less than one per cent, they say, and the chances of human casualties are even slimmer.

Even so, shipowners offer double and sometimes triple pay for the time seamen spend in the war

zone, generally defined as the northern Gulf.

The port of Fujairah, one of seven emirates making up the United Arab Emirates (UAE), abolished its anchorage fee a year ago to attract more tankers and benefit from the economic spin-off.

Since January, around 40 tankers have been offshore at any given time, lighting up the horizon at night like a city at sea.

The anchorage is good, close to shipping lanes and exempt from war-risk insurance. Sometimes tankers stop on their way out of the Gulf to wait for higher spot oil prices, clean the hull or repair minor missile damage.

Shipping agencies and service companies have sprung up to give a small fillip to the economy of Fujairah, a mountainous and until recently isolated emirate which has yet to find oil.

"Sometimes they just turn off their engines and drift for a few hours. They may order 100 kilos of potatoes, 200 tonnes of fresh water and pick up their mail.

Once a captain asked for 20 colour TVs on board within three hours," said Capt. Turnbull.

Inbound, a tanker may halt near Fujairah until nightfall, to enter the Gulf under cover of darkness. Iranian helicopters and planes, which attack vessels in the southern Gulf, do not usually operate at night.

Iranian gunboats, which have been sighted in international waters off Khor Fakkan, exchange what shipping sources describe as firm but polite radio messages with the U.S. navy.

"If the Iranians feel the U.S. is getting too close to their waters they tell them to get away," said one Fujairah-based shipping agent.

"The Americans reply by saying they are in international waters. The matter usually ends there."

Diplomats say the United States is less worried about the regular Iranian navy than small missile-bearing craft piloted by Revolutionary Guards, blamed for several attacks in the southern Gulf on ships trading with Kuwait.

Kuwait plans to keep AIDS at bay

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has detected six cases of AIDS and is studying a programme of checks, education and penalties to keep the killer ailment at bay, Health Minister Abdul Rahman Al-Awadhi said in an interview published Wednesday.

Al Anba newspaper quoted him as saying the government was studying a bill to penalise anyone who had sex with their spouses while aware that they carried AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

It was also studying proposals to carry out checks on anyone travelling abroad more than 10 times a year, he said in Geneva where he attended a recent World Health Organisation meeting.

A survey of up to 15,000 people in Kuwait would also be carried out to monitor possible spread of the disease, he added.

The AIDS cases identified in Kuwait include two Americans, two African students, a "stateless" person who came from Saudi Arabia and an Arab child whose nationality he did not disclose.

Pacific states dismiss concern over Libya

RABAU, Papua New Guinea (R) — Three South Pacific island nations said Wednesday Libyan influence in the region had been blown out of proportion by Western countries.

Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, partners in the Melanesian spearhead group, also said they would preserve their culture and identity to avoid racial conflicts such as the ethnic violence in Fiji between ethnic Melanesians and Indians.

Prime Minister Pias Wingi of Papua New Guinea and Ezekiel Aileua of the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu Deputy Prime Minister Sethy Regenzanu met here in an attempt to forge a common policy in the South Pacific.

"They stated their position one day after Australia ordered the closure of the Libyan People's Bureau (embassy) in Canberra and expelled its diplomats."

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke accused Libya of playing a destabilising role in the South Pacific. It also was involved in "divisive activities" in Australia, he said, without giving details.

Australian officials said Western concern stemmed from the establishment of diplomatic ties between Vanuatu and Libya last

year. They said Libya might use Vanuatu to support dissident groups in the region.

Mr. Regenzanu told the conference Vanuatu would never allow any activity that could destabilise the region. All three ministers emphasised the need for Melanesian unity and consultation.

"Vanuatu, contrary to a lot of media discussion, will never allow itself to be used as a base for activities that are contrary to the interests and needs of the governments of the people of the region," Mr. Regenzanu said.

Mr. Aileua said the Libyan issue was of some concern to Solomon Islands but it had been exaggerated by Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

"We feel that the arch adversaries we must face together are the superpowers and their wanton interest in this region... We feel that they are paranoid about the whole issue (of Libya)," he said.

Referring to the ethnic disturbances in Fiji following last week's attempted coup, Mr. Aileua said: "It can be avoided if we can maintain our identity, if we can carry out our functions and govern our own nations with our own decisions."

"If we can keep away foreign alien influences from our shores, we sincerely believe that the problem in Fiji will not happen in our countries," he said.

Wingi told the conference the French territory of New Caledonia, not Libya, was still the most serious long-term issue.

"We cannot, and must not, simply react to what outsiders say about us and want us to do," the Papua New Guinea leader said.

Meanwhile the Australian government was accused by the opposition Wednesday of ordering the closure of the Libyan People's Bureau to deflect attention from its handling of the crisis in Fiji.

The opposition said Mr. Hawke had displayed impotence in the face of last Thursday's military takeover, which it said was a direct result of the government's lack of interest in the area.

Shaban Gashut, secretary of the Bureau, said the decision to close Libya's sole diplomatic office in Australia was "immature political behaviour."

Mr. Hawke denied at a press conference Tuesday that the decision to close the bureau had been influenced by events in Fiji but conceded the issues were inter-related.

Kuwait pledges \$900,000 for Palestine refugees

VIENNA (Agencies) — Kuwait has pledged \$900,000 in response to Lebanon emergency appeal being made by UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

UNRWA Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli has asked for \$20.6 million to enable the agency to give urgently-needed help — food, shelter and medical care — to Palestine refugees suffering from the fighting in Lebanon.

Kuwait's pledge brings to nearly \$11 million the amount promised or paid in cash to the appeal. Another \$2.4 million has been pledged or given in kind — mainly food, blankets and medical supplies.

Other governments which have made pledges or contributions are: Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The European Community, a number of non-

governmental and other organisations and individuals have also made contributions or pledges.

UNRWA provides education, health and relief services to some 2.1 million registered Palestine refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, the West Bank and Gaza Strip. About 13 per cent of the total refugees live in Lebanon, with over half of them living in 12 camps. Some 48,000 of the Palestine refugees have been displaced by the strife in Lebanon in the past nine months.

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Argentina's nuclear industry is Latin America's most advanced. Argentina has two nuclear power reactors.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

14:00 Koran
14:10 Programme Review
14:20 Children's programme
14:35 Ramadan conte
14:40 Local puzzle
15:10 Cooking programme
15:25 Arabic play
16:30 Religious programme
17:40 Arabic comedy
18:30 Local competition
19:00 Religious programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Tomorrow's programme
22:20 News in Hebrew
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Arabic series
23:50 Arabic play

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Ombré et Lumière: mémoire d'émancipation
19:00 News in French
19:15 Le Monde Selon Gorge
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Variétés
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Mic and My G
21:10 The Challenge
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "The Gray Fox"
Jakie Burroughs, Wayne Rulson

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 950 KHz. SW

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

07:00 Light Mus c
07:30 News
08:00 Morning Show
09:00 News Summary
10:00 Morning Show Cont.
10:05 Country Mus c
11:30 Hissville: The story of Motown
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Rouding
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Show n
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instruments
14:30 30-minute Theatrical
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instruments
16:30 Old Favorites
17:00 Discovering Mus c
17:30 Pop Show n
18:00 News Summary

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

10:00 Koran
10:20 Children's programme
10:35 Ramadan conte
11:00 Local puzzle
11:35 Cooking programme
12:00 Arabic play
12:30 Religious programme
13:00 Arabic comedy
13:30 Local competition
14:00 Religious programme
15:00 News in Arabic
15:30 Arabic series
16:30 Tomorrow's programme
17:20 News in Hebrew
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:10 Arabic series
18:50 Arabic play

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639. 720. 1323 KHz

PROGRAMME ONE

07:00 News 07:30 Classical Record Review 07:45 Reflections 07:50 World News 08:00 World News 08:20 Football 08:30 News 08:45 The World Today 08:50 News 09:00 Time for Verse 09:10 The Farming World 10:00 World News 10:05 24 Hours: News Summary 10:20 Soundtrack 10:45 Wring up a Senses 11:00 News 11:05 R. Reflections 11:15 International Soccer Special 11:30 John Peel 12:00 World News 12:05 24 Hours: News Summary 12:15 The World Today 12:30 Financial News 12:45 World's Work 13:00 Wildlife 13:05 News Summary: Music 13:10 News Summary: Music 13:15 News Summary: Music 13:20 News Summary: Music 13:25 News Summary: Music 13:30 News Summary: Music 13:35 News Summary: Music 13:40 News Summary: Music 13:45 News Summary: Music 13:50 News Summary: Music 13:55 News Summary: Music 14:00 News Summary: Music 14:05 News Summary: Music 14:10 News Summary: Music 14:15 News Summary: Music 14:20 News Summary: Music 14:25 News Summary: Music 14:30 News Summary: Music 14:35 News Summary: Music 14:40 News Summary: Music 14:45 News Summary: Music 14:50 News Summary: Music 14:55 News Summary: Music 15:00 News Summary: Music 15:05 News Summary: Music 15:10 News Summary: Music 15:15 News Summary: Music 15:20 News Summary: Music 15:25 News Summary: Music 15:30 News Summary: Music 15:35 News Summary: Music 15:40 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NEWS IN BRIEF

Rifai chairs royal committee meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Wednesday presided over a meeting of the Royal Committee for Administrative Development, which discussed issues relating to the new civil service system and salary scale of the higher category staff, including under secretaries, director generals of departments and public institutions. It was decided at the meeting that a special sub-committee, headed by the finance minister, will be set up to put forward proposals on these issues, in preparation for the next meeting of the royal committee.

Cabinet increases capital for spa complex

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has decided to increase the capital of the Jordan Tourism and Spa Complex to JD 5 million. The Cabinet also took another decision approving the appointment of the Zakat (alms) Fund's board of directors. The board includes Mr. Deifallah Al Hmoud, Mohammad Ali Budeir, Abdul Muhdi Ma'ayah, Hamdi Tabba'a and Kamal Asfour.

3 killed in week's accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — Three citizens were killed and 106 were injured in 366 road accidents which took place throughout Jordan last week. Last week accidents increased by 11.3 per cent over the week before, Public Security Department sources said on Monday. Although the number of accidents increased, the death toll remained the same during the past two weeks, while the number of injured decreased by 6 per cent, the source said. Most of the accidents took place in Amman Governorate which registered 146 accidents against 41 in Irbid, 30 in Zarqa, 17 in Balqa, 9 in the Badia, 6 in Karak, 6 in Ma'an, 5 in Aqaba and 3 in each of Mafraq and Tafleh governorates.

Military governor endorses sentence

AMMAN (Petra) — The military governor has endorsed the military court's verdict sentencing Usama Ali Jamil Ibrahim to three months in prison after convicting him of embezzlement of public funds.

Police holding unclaimed jewelry

AMMAN (Petra) — Criminal police have arrested a thief while he was trying to sell some gold jewelry to one of the jewellers. Since the criminal police department has not received any complaints and has not been informed about any thefts, it is therefore calling on anyone who has lost jewelry to call at the department to claim the seized items.

IPA endorses public sector training plan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Institute of Public Administration (IPA) has endorsed an integrated plan for training employees in the public sector, to be put into force in July, according to IPA Director General Abdullah Ulayyan. He said that the plan entails holding 25 training courses for employees of different categories, dealing with skills in management and public administration. The plan, he said, entails two long term programmes for promoting employees in government departments.

Road contract awarded to local firm

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh said that his ministry has recently awarded a tender to a consortium of local engineering offices to conduct evaluation and design studies for the 240 kilometre road stretching from Azraq to the Iraqi border. This road, the minister added, was subject to travel by vehicles with excessive axial loads during the past years which damaged large parts of it and warranted a technical study according to which the road will be reconstructed and strengthened. Work on the JD 47,000 study is expected to be finished this year while the construction tender will be floated next year.

Preparations under way for CAEU meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab finance and economy ministers are scheduled to hold their 47th session meetings here on June 12th to discuss among other issues means of strengthening joint Arab economic action.

Secretary General of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Mahdi Al Obeidi said that, during their two-day meetings, Arab ministers will also discuss reports on problems facing Arab economies, the economic situation in the occupied Arab territories, as well as proposals for dealing with negative effects from the international economic situation.

Mr. Obeidi added that there will also be working papers on the role of pan-Arab institutions in the Arab economies.



KING RECEIVES SUDANESE CLERIC: His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received at the Royal Court Sudanese religious leader Ahmad Al Mahdi on the occasion of the end of the cleric's

visit to Jordan. Mr. Mahdi thanked the King for the hospitality he received during the visit (Petra photo)

Australian, Jordanian firms sign contract for Zarqa project

AMMAN (J.T.) — A joint venture of Australia's Sagre International Co. and the Jozai and Partners has signed a JD 2.8 million (\$8.4 million) contract for consultancy and extension services for part of the JD 32.2 million (\$96.3 million) Zarqa river basin project, according to the Middle East Economic Digest (MEED).

The scheme will introduce a radical approach to problems of soil erosion and land degradation in the 82,550-hectare lower Zarqa catchment area.

The project has three components. The first, on which Sagre-Jozai will work, deals with privately owned land — excluding private forests. It will cost an estimated JD 21.2 million (\$63.5 million).

The second, JD 4.6 million (\$13.8 million), sub-project will be for development of forests and other areas on government and private land. Consultancy work will probably be done by specialists from the Agriculture Ministry's forestry department and West Germany's technical aid agency, GTZ.

For the third sub-project, to be limited to Arab consultants in joint venture with foreign firms, are to be issued in four months. This JD 2.1 million (\$6.3 million) section will deal with

protection of banks along the Zarqa river. The establishment of a central project administration will cost an additional JD 4.1 million (\$12.3 million).

The overall scheme, which runs to 1993, aims to develop safe land use, soil conservation and improved farming techniques on a farm-by-farm basis. Farmers will sign contracts to follow recommended procedures that have previously been adopted only in Australia. The project managers expect that about two-thirds of the 5,700 farms in the area will sign up.

The project is expected to help to halt the present rate of erosion in the area, reduce silting in the King Talal dam and improve farm incomes on a sustainable basis.

Funding is being provided by the government (JD 5.9 million — \$17.6 million); Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (JD 8.5 million — \$25.4 million); Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (JD 6.1 million — \$18.2 million); Saudi Fund for Development (JD 3.4 million — \$10.2 million); Islamic Development Bank (JD 2 million — \$6 million), and the West German government (JD 2.2 million — \$6.6 million). The remaining costs will be met by participating farmers.

Lecture on plant diseases to be held

AMMAN (J.T.) — A scientific lecture on the interaction of herbicides and plant diseases will be presented on May 23 at the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan. The lecture, to be held at 10:00 a.m., will be presented by Dr. Jack Altman, a professor of plant pathology at Colorado State University, in cooperation with Dr. Alexander von Humboldt, a professor at Hanover University.

Late British artist Fielding touched basic human level

By Margaret Hall
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Last month, Britain lost one of its renowned artists, Brian Fielding. He died of cancer at the age of fifty-four in his hometown, Sheffield.

At the time, his recent still-life paintings were being shown in exhibitions at the Mappon Art Gallery in Sheffield and the Ikon Gallery in Birmingham. The exhibit traced the developments in Fielding's work from the 1960's to the present day.

The investigation of abstract forms and the obsessive use of recurring themes were central of Fielding's work. These themes were the subject of practical workshops for students during the exhibition.

Some of his earlier paintings.



Brian Fielding's "Vestonice Offer" painted shortly before the artist's death

SSC opens new branches to handle larger coverage

ZARQA (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan, who is also chairman of the board of directors of the Social Security Corporation (SSC), said on Wednesday that the SSC is preparing to implement the extension of coverage to all institutions, companies or firms employing five or more people, in addition to all Jordanians working for international and regional organisations, and diplomatic corps as of June 1.

The new stage will be applied optionally to institutions employing less than five persons.

The decision to expand the coverage of the SSC was made by the Cabinet on April 25th. The expansion is expected to cover an additional 50,000 people.

Opening a new branch for the

SSC in Zarqa, Mr. Haj Hassan said the corporation applies decentralisation in discharging its functions and activities to provide facilities to workers, employers and institutions. He said that the corporation has already opened offices in Irbid, Aqaba and Karak, and is planning to open new offices in Salt, Mafraq and Tafleh.

Mr. Haj Hassan also said that the inauguration of the SSC office in Zarqa is designed to provide the necessary facilities for employers and workers and to provide protection and cater for the 411,000 workers and employees who are covered by the SSC law.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Dr. Mahdi Farhan, director general of the SSC, and Zarqa Governor Eid Qatameh.

U.S. to provide financing for Jordanian importers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has established a Commodity Import Programme (CIP) to assist Jordan's public and private sectors. Under a new financing arrangement, manufactured goods and raw materials beneficial to Jordan's economic development can be imported under favourable terms by local companies.

Since the CIP was established in 1985, USAID has contributed \$105.5 million to create this financing facility. Over \$48 million in letters of credit have already been issued to more than 35 Jordanian firms by local banks for imports of U.S. goods.

"We have been encouraged by the success of the private-sector programme, particularly the assistance which it has given to Jordanian entrepreneurs and their contributions to the industrial development of Jordan's economy," said Francis A. Donovan, director of USAID's Commodity Management Office in Amman. "The programme welcomes more applicants from the private sector to make use of this unique facility," he added.

Under the private sector portion of this programme, USAID

pays U.S. exporters in dollars for goods approved for CIP financing. The Jordanian importer then pays the equivalent amount in dinars into a special account at the Central Bank of Jordan, ordinarily over a period of three to five years at interest rates which average 7 per cent. Funds in this special account are then used by the public sector for development projects agreed upon by Jordan and USAID.

Products eligible for financing under this programme include machinery and equipment, intermediate goods, raw materials, and spare parts. The programme does not finance consumer goods, luxury items, or products intended for re-export in essentially the same condition.

Major U.S. imports to Jordan under this programme have included draglines and other mining equipment, agricultural equipment, com, tractors, telephone equipment, pumps, pharmaceuticals, computers, drilling equipment, tyres, and spare parts for trucks, tractors and aircraft.

Jordanian importers and entrepreneurs interested in the CIP programme should contact their local bank or USAID at 604171, extension 441.

Committee prepares for 3rd expatriate conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — A committee in charge of preparing for the 3rd conference of Jordanian expatriates has embarked on a number of measures designed to make the conference a success, a report in the Arabic daily Al Rai said on Wednesday.

The conference which will be held in Amman on July 13, will concentrate on issues pertaining

to relations between expatriates and their home country. Taking part in the four-day conference will be some 650 Jordanians working abroad, in addition to a number of participants who work in Jordan.

The preparatory committee is currently preparing working papers on Jordan's latest achievements.

Captain of frigate had only seconds of warning

(Continued from page 1)

had not received any signals from the frigate Sunday night before he fired his missiles.

"I checked with the commander of the air force myself and he assures me the pilot did not receive any warning. Pilots usually attack from a long distance and cannot identify the ships," said Mr. Aziz.

U.S. officials had said the frigate had attempted to contact the fighter before the attack.

Mr. Aziz said the pilot believed "he was aiming at an Iranian target. That's what he went for." "Our pilots fly in this war zone on a daily basis. They're trying to find Iranian vessels and vessels dealing or trading with Iran. Our pilots have been attacking them

for a long time. The Iranians deny us our right to navigate in the Gulf and we have to retaliate," he said.

He said that Iraq has asked the United States to provide a full report on the attack. "We are still waiting for the American version of the whole story. It seems it is not prepared yet."

Mr. Aziz said that when the U.S. report is available "we can see whether the pilot has to be blamed or not."

"If he is to be blamed, his commander is going to take the necessary measures," he said, without elaborating.

In a related development, U.S. administration officials disclosed Tuesday night that U.S. intelligence agencies had intercepted some radio communications be-

tween the Iraqi warplane and its home base.

One source, quoted by AP, described the radio transmissions as "not much help" in unravelling the circumstances surrounding the attack.

"The pilot said something to the effect that he had a big target or a big ship," added the source.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan said Tuesday there must never be a repeat of the Stark attack and declared the order of battle for U.S. warships now was "defend yourselves."

In remarks to high school students in Tennessee, Mr. Reagan said U.S. ships were in the Gulf to protect U.S. interests, and maintain navigational freedom and access to oil supplies.

Charity bazaar one of many night attractions for Ramadan

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As Eid Al Fitr approaches and the days become warmer, Ammanites stroll down the streets for some fresh night air and digest the food they had for iftar to work up a new appetite for suhur before the cannon goes off to start a new day of the holy month of Ramadan.

During this month of Ramadan, one can drive in the downtown streets and feel a sense of pleasure to find that the roads have been cleaned. It is even more pleasurable to find that there has been a successful effort to provide the public with parks.

The Hashemi Street was not a place to go unless one had to. Now, however, especially during Ramadan, one can see the lovely Roman amphitheatre that had previously been blocked to the street by the old Philadelphia hotel. And, because the roads have been widened, and a new public park sits besides the old Roman ruins, people sit, walk, laugh and talk until 2 or 3 in the morning.

Jabal Hussein is another lively area for a Ramadan night. The streets brim with life as Jordanians window shop, take late night walks, sit around and tell jokes, and munch on roasted nuts.

Bazaars, both open-air and sheltered, have been opened for



A view of the newly-built Hashemite Park in downtown Amman and the Roman amphitheatre on the right. The public during this holy month. One open-air bazaar is in Jabal Hussein in front of the Ministry of Health.

Charity piastre bazaar

As one approaches the charity piastre bazaar, men on loudspeakers are heard trying to sell dresses for JD 1 each and music — Arabic and disco — blares out in the neon-lit darkness. Outside the entrance, a fire engine is parked in case of an emergency. And inside, a new police van with several policemen inside sit and enjoy their soft drinks awaiting to settle any form of trouble.

Inside the bazaar, there are many men, women, and children walking around the market, till 2



People of all ages are sitting through books at a bookshop stand at Jabal Al Hussein's open-air bazaar (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan).

Although, according to some of the merchants selling their products at the bazaar, most people are not buying much, there are still happy faces seen enjoying the night air. The children are especially grateful to be out of their houses and having fun at the mini-playground.

A bookseller says that although he is renting three booths for his books, he is not making much of a profit: "I sell from JD 20 to JD 50 a night, which is nothing. But I think it's important to display a large number and variety of books in such a market because it



Jabal Al Hussein's bazaar bustles with life after iftar during Ramadan days (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan). introduces people to books and encourages them to read," said the bookseller.

A man selling slippers of JD 1 each said that he sells usually 25 slippers a night. The Pepsi seller, whose soft drinks are chilled in a large barrel of water and ice, said that he sells JD 50 worth of drinks a night.

Mr. Abdullah Jaber, director of the Charity Piastre Project, sits in his own administration booth at the entrance, feels guilty for not having rented it out to a merchant.

Mr. Jaber said that the Ramadan market is filled with people and children until 2 a.m. The project, which collects money for scholarships to 200 needy stu-

dents at the University of Jordan, set up the booths in this empty piece of land which was donated for use by the landowner for one month. Mr. Jaber said that two years after the students graduate, they begin to repay the Charity Piastre Project in order to keep the system going.

According to Mr. Jaber, it took JD 10,000 to establish the bazaar. Each booth costs the merchant JD 150, plus an electricity bill and insurance payment. Asked whether it would be possible to carry on the activity throughout the summer, he replied: "It is a good idea and the people love to go outdoors at night. But it is up to the merchants if they want to continue through the summer."



Items priced at JD 1 each selling at the bazaar (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

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Misplaced hopes

IT IS indeed ironic to note that the Israeli Labour Party which is allegedly seeking peace with the Arabs through an international peace conference and is currently running a domestic and international campaign on a peace ticket could also be caught engaged in a relentless effort to outbid the Likud bloc as a more hardline party on the conditions of peace. This is happening against the backdrop of the political feud which is brewing between the two principal ruling parties in Israel over the issue of whether to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East. Only two days ago, spokesmen for the so-called peace party have been caught red-handed accusing the Likud bloc in the Knesset as having been too soft on the peace objective with the Arabs and as having sold the interests of the country too cheaply when it, as the ruling party under Menachem Begin, negotiated and concluded the Camp David accords with Egypt and precipitated evacuation from Egyptian territory. Thus, the lot of peace efforts in Israel is too confusing to comprehend: on one hand we have the Likud on record as opposed to the format of an international peace conference because it fears international pressure which could succeed in inducing Israel to withdraw completely from Arab territories; and on the other hand we have Labour on record as being in favour of the conference idea but professes to be more of hardliner on the conditions of peace than the Likud.

Let anyone forget it was under Labour rule that Israel waged its major wars against the Arab countries and set the process of colonisation of the occupied Arab territories. When the Likud assumed power, it too did not hesitate to wage war against the Arabs, and its infamous invasion of Lebanon which brought unprecedented death and destruction to that country has yet to be completely chronicled by military historians. Against this background we hear U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz saying in the wake of his recent talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in New York and Washington that neither the president nor himself are committed to an international conference and that neither of them is asking others to commit themselves now to the conference idea. Are we not right therefore in concluding that, given the environment of the projected peace conference our pinning too much hope on the conference is misplaced to say the least.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Threat from the Gulf

DESPITE the huge losses which the Gulf war has been causing over the past seven years and despite the danger it posed to world peace and security, the superpowers and the Western nations have so far been overlooking its existence. Above all, this war has been a rich ground for war mongers who exploited it for their own selfish interest and directly or indirectly helped to prolong the conflict as much as possible. But the attacks on the superpower vessels in the troubled waters of the Gulf region have now opened the eyes of the international community to the grave danger this conflict is posing to the world, and underlined the need for speedy action for stopping all hostilities. The attacks on the foreign ships in the Gulf represent a reminder to the world that the Gulf conflict was continuing, and that certain evil forces have been active in fuelling it while others looked on without doing anything to end the tragedy. The attacks clearly manifest the fact that the world has not yet taken serious steps towards bringing this conflict to an end, and that the longer the war lasts, the more danger will be posed to world peace and security. It is true that the U.S. arms deal with Iran caused a scandal in the United States and brought about condemnation from world nations, but the loss of American life on board the Stark frigate would no doubt bring the tragedy to every doorstep in the United States which ought to shoulder its responsibility as a superpower to help re-establish justice and peace worldwide.

Al Dustour: Peres' misleading talk

UPON returning to Israel, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres claimed that in his visit to the United States he was encouraged by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to pursue efforts for convening an international conference on the Middle East. But we have all heard Shultz's remarks in Washington and in the presence of Peres that Washington would not make any moves towards such conference unless this subject won the blessings of the Israeli coalition government. Everyone including Shultz realises that the present Israeli government led by Yitzhak Shamir adamantly refuses the idea of an international conference, and therefore any talk about the conference is a waste of time. In fact such talk, coming from any member of the Israeli government, is designed as misleading to world public opinion. The world has watched Peres being defeated by Shamir, his partner in the present government, and heard Washington announcing support for the Israeli government's position with regard to the international conference. There can be nothing in all that Israel and the United States think or do which might be helpful towards a lasting settlement. Unless and until the Arabs take the initiative and bring about a real change in the balance of power in the area, there can be no chance for such conference or for real peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: Stepping into boiling waters

THE Americans who have been fuelling the Gulf war by supplying Iran with arms are now suffering from the fire they caused and the conflagration they helped to bring about. The attack on the American frigate in the Gulf region underlines the fact that the United States is clearly making wrong calculations with regard to the Gulf region and taking wrong steps in their approach to deal with the situation there. Even Washington's offer to provide protection to Arab states in the Gulf is looked on as insidious, because it could give cause to the emergence of further hostile feelings towards the United States, something which could escalate tension. The attack on the frigate brings to mind the tragedy of the spy ship Liberty which was hit by the Israelis during the 1967 war when the U.S. was trying to deal with the Middle East situation with ill-planning. Such miscalculations also brought further tragedy when the U.S. sent in troops to Lebanon, another troubled area of the Middle East, only to lose 200 men in a tragedy which they had helped to cause. The waters of the Gulf are very hot and boiling and only through careful and concerted efforts and goodwill can they be cooled and hostilities brought to an end.

U.S. wants Gulf war ended as quickly as possible

From USA

CHATTANOOGA, Tennessee — The United States wants the "long, costly, destabilising and tragic" Gulf war ended as quickly as possible, President Reagan says. In responses to written questions submitted by the Kuwaiti daily Al Qabas on May 12 — before the Iraqi missile attack on the USS Stark — Reagan said Washington is committed to ensuring the free flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz, and to the collective self-defence of U.S. friends in the Gulf area. The text of the interview was released by the White House in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where the president was addressing high school graduates from the Hamilton County area. White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said U.S. policy in the Gulf remains constant, despite the attack on the Stark. The president said Washington is "strongly interested" in seeing the Iran-Iraq war "brought to a speedy conclusion through negotiations which will preserve the sovereignty and territorial integrity" of both belligerents. Following is the text of the interview.

Question: Mr. President, you are determined to protect the flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz. Yet, some say your administration is not doing anything about bringing to an end the major cause of the threat, namely the Gulf war. There is a conviction in the area that your administration is taking advantage of that war in order to secure military facilities. Do you think that this reflects the reality of the American attitude? The President: For more than six years, the war between Iran and Iraq has gone on, resulting in tremendous suffering and cost to Iran and Iraq, as well as bringing instability to the Gulf region. As I have said many times, the United States is deeply concerned over the war's continuation. We are strongly interested in seeing it brought to a speedy conclusion through negotiations which will preserve the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both Iran and Iraq. Through our campaign to slow down and shut off the military supply pipelines to Iran, through our support of mediation efforts by the appropriate international organisations, we are working with many other governments in seeking to create a situation where the parties will sit down and negotiate.

At the same time, we also have a well-known policy regarding the Gulf. We are firmly committed to assisting our friends there with their collective and individual self-defence efforts. We are also strongly committed to ensuring the free flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz and hold as a very important tenet the principle of freedom of navigation in international waters. In brief, we want to see this long, costly, destabilising, and tragic war brought to a negotiated end in the quickest time possible.

Q: You acknowledged a "mistake in the secret dealings with Iran, and you said that the Arab countries understand the implications behind this: the consequences of the deal are still reverberating within your administration and on the battlefield of this war. Therefore, may we frankly know from your exact policy towards both Iran and Iraq?

A: The United States is neutral in the Iran-Iraq war. We do not now ship weapons to Iran or Iraq, nor do we intend to do so. This policy is firm. Through Operation Staunch we try to persuade third countries not to supply Iran with arms, munitions, and dual-use items it needs to continue fighting. Operation Staunch is not directed towards Iraq — that country, for some time, has agreed to negotiate a settlement to the war. Iran remains the intransigent party and is occupying Iraqi territory and trying to take more.

The United States has taken an active role in searching for a peaceful solution to this tragic war. We want neither victor nor vanquish, and we continue to work for a settlement that will preserve the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both Iran and Iraq.

I have urged the international community, in the appropriate fora and through the appropriate mechanisms, to work for an immediate cease-fire, negotiations, and withdrawal to the borders. In line with this general policy, we have been actively consulting with other interested governments regarding efforts to bring the war to a negotiated end. I have asked Assistant Secretary Murphy to visit the Gulf to consult on this and other important issues of mutual interest.

We believe the U.N. Security Council has an important role to play in the effort to end the Gulf war and would strongly support effective action by the United Nations to end this conflict. We have been consulting closely with the Arab League in efforts to gain support from other members of the Security Council. We welcome the effort by the Arab League in this regard.

Q: A lot of talk is being heard about adopting the idea of holding an international conference attended by all of the parties concerned to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Nevertheless, the American attitude is not clear. Would the United States agree to participate in such a conference if it is going to lead to the formation of two independent states, Israel and Palestine; and what would Arafat's role be?

A: We remain committed to a negotiated peace between Israel and all of its Arab neighbours. To this end, we have stated our willingness to explore all possibilities, including an international conference that might lead to direct negotiations and a peaceful settlement. Such a conference must lead promptly to direct negotiations and must not interfere with those negotiations.

In recent weeks, this process of exploration has produced what we believe to be significant progress toward negotiations which would offer serious prospects of reaching agreements between the parties on peace. Much remains to be done before one can safely

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In recent weeks, this process of exploration has produced what we believe to be significant progress toward negotiations which would offer serious prospects of reaching agreements between the parties on peace. Much remains to be done before one can safely

express optimism on further developments, but we are encouraged and will continue our efforts.

As I stated in my September 1, 1982 peace proposal, we firmly believe that self-government by the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza in association with Jordan offers the best chance for a durable, just and lasting peace.

Q: Gorbachev rejected your invitation to visit Washington, D.C., on the ground that he does not want to waste his time. Does your administration feel that, as a result of the Iran-contra affair, it has lost the international stature it needs to carry on strategic debates with Moscow?

A: The U.S.-Soviet relationship is fundamentally competitive and will likely remain that way. At the same time, the United States seeks to ensure that this competition remains peaceful and as stable and predictable as possible.

We have established a framework, based on realism and political and military strength, that provides the basis for a productive U.S.-Soviet dialogue in all areas of concern to us: Arms control, bilateral exchanges, human rights and regional issues.

Through this dialogue, including two meetings between myself and General Secretary Gorbachev, the United States has made progress in a number of areas, including arms control, bilateral exchanges, human rights and regional issues. But in other areas, such as regional conflicts, we remain very far apart.

My invitation to General Secretary Gorbachev remain open. We're ready for hard and fruitful work ahead. I hope the Soviets are as well.

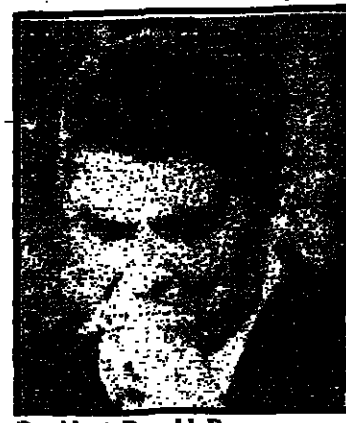
Q: The state of Kuwait is a firm believer in neutrality and maintains a policy of balance between East and West in her international relations. Her position on the battlefield between Iran and Iraq has exposed her to further difficulties and dangers. What is your evaluation of Kuwait's role in that conflict within the overall relationship between our two countries?

A: We have had long and harmonious relations with Kuwait and all the Gulf states. With Kuwait our relationship goes back to the early days of its independence some 26 years ago.

We admire Kuwait's many achievements. Because of our strong ties with Kuwait and the other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, and the common interests we share in stability in the region, we have been in close discussions for some time with all the GCC states on the war and the danger it poses. I have made it clear on numerous occasions that the United States would regard an expansion of the war as a major threat to its interests as well as to that of its friends in the region. We understand the difficult situation in which Kuwait has been placed by the pressures stemming from the Iran-Iraq conflict. We admire the courage and diplomatic skill with which Kuwait has met these pressures.

Q: Capitalism and free enterprise are well-established principles in the West. You are an advocate of non-intervention by states in the functions of the private sector. Aren't Western governments denying these principles in their proposal, it is the firm view of the United States that self-government by the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza in association with Jordan offer the best chance for a durable, just and lasting peace.

We will not support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, nor will we support annexation or permanent control by Israel. As I stated in my September 1, 1982, peace



President Ronald Reagan

debt in the context of the programme. The Egyptian government is negotiating with the International Monetary Fund.

Our assistance to Egypt is just one aspect of the special relationship that exists between our two countries. I am committed to working with President Mubarak to see our relationship expand and flourish.

Q: Your bitter experience in Lebanon pushed America to refrain from interfering in Lebanese affairs; have you now entered into a new deal, a part of which contains a solution to the Lebanese problem or will you leave local parties to solve it and what could such a proposal be after 13 years of civil war?

A: U.S. policy in Lebanon has for many years been based on support for Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and independence, and the withdrawal of all foreign forces. The United States continues to support an end to fighting in Lebanon, the restoration of a political dialogue that could lead to national reconciliation and political reform, the strengthening of Lebanon's legally constituted central government, dissolution of illegal militias and the extension of its effective authority throughout the country.

The lessons of Lebanon's 11 years of strife are clear, however. No outside power, however well-intentioned, can be a substitute for efforts by the Lebanese themselves, nor can Lebanon's political problems be solved by force. We, and others, are ready to help, but without initiative and effort by the Lebanese themselves, the assistance of foreign powers will be fruitless.

Q: Every people in the world has its own state — the British have Britain, and Americans have America. Where is the state of the Palestinian people?

A: We believe that any negotiations designed to lead to a Middle East peace must address the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, together with the security of all states in the region. We have always recognised that Palestinians should participate at every stage of the peace process. Any agreement on the final status of the West Bank and Gaza should receive the prior consent of the inhabitants of those territories.

We will not support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, nor will we support annexation or permanent control by Israel. As I stated in my September 1, 1982, peace

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Q: Capitalism and free enterprise are well-established principles in the West. You are an advocate of non-intervention by states in the functions of the private sector. Aren't Western governments denying these principles in their

efforts to keep the price of oil low?

A: The United States and other Western governments represented in the International Energy Agency continue to emphasise the importance of market forces and sound energy policy in achieving supply/demand balance. We do not work toward maintaining oil prices at any level, whether high or low. We have no preconceived notion of where world or individual countries production or pricing levels should be. We continue to believe these should be determined by the free market, operating without government interference or any other form of market manipulation.

Q: Recent events have proven that foreign investments in the United States are not immune from political considerations, although the free market economy of the United States is supposed to be free of state intervention. Investments by Iran, Argentina and Libya are examples. Do we, as Arabs with some of our surpluses invested in the United States, have to think twice about whether our investments are safe and not subject to being frozen?

A: The United States remains the most open and flexible capital market in the world, and the U.S. government remains committed to the preservation of this openness. Responsible foreign governments and investors from their countries need not fear that their assets will be affected by U.S. political goals. Statistics clearly show that we continue to hold the confidence of foreign investors. Total foreign investment in the United States — including direct investment, portfolio investment, and foreign government holdings — more than doubled from just over \$300,000 million in 1980 to \$1.3 billion million by the end of 1986.

With respect to the three countries you mention, let me clarify a few points: — The United States did not freeze Argentine assets: We merely suspended programmes of the Export-Import Bank with regard to that country for a limited period.

— The Iranian case was extraordinary in that it involved a government which had committed flagrant violations of well-established principles of international law. Iran was holding U.S. diplomats hostage.

— Libya directly supports international criminals who perpetrate senseless acts of terror not only against Western and African countries but also against countries in the Gulf and other Muslim states. As a direct response to Libyan terrorist attacks against the United States, Libyan government assets in the United States were frozen. Interest on those assets continues to accrue to the accounts of the Libyan government. Investments by private Libyan citizens have not been affected.

No responsible nation should feel threatened by sanctions taken in such circumstances. In fact, we believe they should support them.

Showdown looms in South Africa's black rent boycott

By Rich Nkhondo

Reuter

SOWETO, South Africa — One of the most sustained and expensive black protests against white rule in South Africa could be approaching a showdown.

For 11 months hundreds of thousands of tenants in some 50 black townships across the country have refused to pay rent to back a long list of demands, including the withdrawal of security forces from the townships and the release of political prisoners.

The rent strike is not only a massive gesture of defiance to the state, it has cost authorities an estimated 190 million rand (\$95 million) in lost revenue.

In Soweto township near Johannesburg, 40,000 of the 75,000 dwellings are council-owned, with rents between 52 and 120 rand (\$26 to 60) a month.

The state's initial response to the rent strike was an expensive poster campaign. Huge coloured billboards were erected in the townships proclaiming in the Zulu and Sotho tribal languages and in English that water and electricity services "are a bargain — but even bargains must be paid for."

Last week, the government tried a tougher tactic. It served orders on black anti-apartheid leaders, including Winnie Mandela and Albertina Sisulu, threatening to evict them from their bungalow homes in Soweto if they did not pay rent arrears within seven days.

Mandela, wife of jailed black leader Nelson Mandela, and Sisulu, whose husband Walter is also behind bars, both say they will

not pay. Scores of ordinary Sowetans have already been evicted for refusing to pay rent, leading to large-scale protests which included a three-day strike last month.

But any attempt to evict Mandela, Sisulu or other prominent black figures could trigger an explosion of violence in a township already highly politicised by its long history as a centre of black protest, residents said.

"They pressed the wrong button," said Sisulu, referring to the outbreak of black anger that could accompany the eviction of people like her and Mandela.

"But I am happy they threatened us instead of widows and pensioners who are helpless," Sisulu, leader of the United Democratic Front (UDF) anti-apartheid organisation, told reporters.

The Soweto town council and government officials say the boycott is beginning to break and more tenants have resumed paying rent.

Town clerk Nico Malan said: "We are now collecting over three million rand (\$1.5 million) a month, compared with the normal seven million (\$3.5 million)." But the Soweto Civic Association, which launched the boycott, disputes this, saying the vast majority of Sowetans are still refusing to pay up.

According to research groups monitoring the boycott, at least 450,000 households, or four million people nationwide, were refusing to pay rent at the beginning of this year. More recent figures are not available.

In one of Soweto's busiest shopping centres, council policemen have removed graffiti saying "We will pay rent when Mandela tells us to."

The townships' black councils that are partly funded by the rent revenues are a key element in the white-led government's policy of meeting the demands by urban blacks for a political voice.

But anti-apartheid organisations, including the UDF which claims two million members, dismiss the councils as a sop aimed at ensuring the continued exclusion of blacks from politics at the national level.

In Soweto in 1978, turn-out for the election of black council members was less than six per cent.

Blacks regard councillors as collaborators with the Pretoria government and they have been targets every time township violence has flared.

The Community Research Group (CRG), a human rights monitoring body based at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, said at least 36 black councils have collapsed because of the financial loss from the rent strikes.

Some political commentators have speculated that a hard line on the rent issue was to be expected after the National Party swept back to power in the white-only election on May 6 which saw a swing to the right.

The commentators note that the government has begun to enforce apartheid laws such as the group areas act, which decrees where people can live according to the colour of their skin, more strictly.

Unions and students step up protests in El Salvador

By Angus Macswan

Reuter

SAN SALVADOR — A wave of protests by unions and students poses a new challenge to President Jose Napoleon Duarte as disillusionment grows with his government and its failure to end El Salvador's eight-year-old civil war.

Tens of thousands of workers, peasants and students have marched through the capital in three rallies this year calling for Duarte to resign.

The United States is a solid supporter of Duarte and a key source of aid to the government troops fighting leftist guerrillas in the civil war. The U.S. embassy has become a focus of the recent demonstrations.

Leftist students demanding an end to the U.S. involvement last month burned an effigy of Uncle Sam outside the heavily-fortified embassy, hammering on its gate and hurling flaming torches into the compound.

"We are going to have more marches, more strikes," said Marco Tulio Lima, secretary-general of the National Union of Salvadorean Workers (UNTS).

The government and U.S. embassy accuse the unions and students of seeking to provoke a violent confrontation which would discredit the country's fledgling democracy.

UNTS leaders say they fear a new wave of repression. In the early part of this decade the ranks of the political left were decimated by security forces and right-wing death squads which

killed thousands of Salvadoreans. The UNTS, linking about a dozen organisations and claiming 250,000 members, has spearheaded the revival of protest since it was formed in February 1986.

Unpopular austerity measures, rising prices, swelling unemployment and the misery caused by a devastating earthquake last October fuelled discontent with Duarte, who was elected in 1984. Anti-government graffiti seems to be sprayed on almost every wall in San Salvador's seedy centre.

The UNTS calls for Duarte's resignation and demands a negotiated end to the war with a role for the left in a power-sharing government.

"Duarte is a figure who was chosen by the United States for their plan," said Lima. "The Yankees are financing the war. They put the emphasis on a military solution. We want a Salvadorean solution."

The government says the UNTS is a front for the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), the Marxist-led guerrilla alliance.

"I am critical of the government and the United States. That does not make me a guerrilla," Lima said.

Wherever the relationship, a channelling of discontent into political support is vital to the FMLN as it is unlikely to win a battlefield victory over the military. The Nation, a left-leaning

weekly magazine, recently reported that the Reagan administration has tried to divide and destroy the Labour movement because it poses a threat to Duarte.

The article quoted a U.S. embassy cable saying it was "the most serious challenge Duarte has faced to date."

An embassy spokesman, asked to comment, said Washington wanted to "strengthen democratic unions."

An embassy source said, "there has been a return to urban political work by the left. We're concerned."

Days before a rally on May 1, the military said it had uncovered a plot by the FMLN to disrupt it. Lima accused the government of resorting to harassment and repression and said UNTS leader Julio Portillo had received death threats.

Troops have stopped busloads of people coming into the city for rallies. Unlike the popular organisations of the late 1970s, the UNTS has failed to find an ally in the Roman Catholic Church.

Auxiliary Archbishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez, at a mass in March commemorating the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, criticised the left for politicising his memory. Romero was shot by suspected rightist gunmen in 1980.

As he spoke workers chanted revolutionary slogans in the square outside the cathedral and students buried paint bombs at the U.S. embassy.

Last California condor captured in bid to save species

By Ronald Clarke
Reuters

LOS ANGELES — The last free California condor has been captured in a bid to save the majestic black birds from extinction.

Only 27 condors — hundreds of which once flew over much of the western United States — remain, and all are in captivity. Hunters, collectors, insecticides and power lines have taken their toll.

Despite the opposition of ecology groups, scientists hope to breed the birds in captivity and release them in the foothills of southern California in the next five years.

While in captivity, the condors, with their nine-foot (2.7-metre) wings, will be paired off. A computer programme has been designed to find the ideal breeding combinations.

The leader of the condor recovery team, Lloyd Kiff, said that if all else fails, artificial insemination may be used. "We're not ready to rush into this," he said.

The last free condor, known as AC-9 (adult condor), was captured by scientists recently as it fed on a goat carcass used as bait 100 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

A net fired by explosives was dropped over the bird, which lives on dead flesh, after it had been stalked for nearly six months. The condor was taken to the San Diego wild animal park to join 13 others in captivity there.

The remaining 13 condors are in the Los Angeles Zoo.

Scientists said it was the first time in 15,000 years that no condor was flying over southern California, the bird's last nesting

ground. A condor can travel up to 160 km a day.

"I'm sure AC-9 was a very lonely bird before he was captured," said Michael Wallace, curator of birds at the Los Angeles Zoo. "He was looking for a mate, but he was the last of his kind."

The majestic black birds, with their white wing patches and golden heads, usually mate for life. AC-9 had a son by AC-8 in the California canyons. But AC-8 now has a romance going with another male condor, AC-6, at the Los Angeles Zoo.

"We were afraid if we brought AC-9 to the Los Angeles Zoo and AC-8 got a view of her old boy friend, her relationship with AC-6 could be disrupted," Wallace said. "So AC-9 went to San Diego."

In addition to his son, AC-9 has his mother, sister and four

brothers there. Martha Baker, public relations director for the zoo, said AC-9 has passed all his medical examinations and a new mate will be found for him.

"He is an attractive bird, as condors go," she said. "AC-1 and AC-4 have a courtship going and there could be an egg next year."

But experience with Andean condors, close relatives of the California condors, has shown mating can take from two to six years.

The captive breeding programme has been strongly criticised by a number of wild animal and bird groups.

David Brower, founder of Friends of the Earth, an ecological group, said condors could not learn how to be condors in Los Angeles or San Diego. "The condor has lost its last chance to live in the wild," he said.

Other opponents of the captive breeding programme said condors raised in zoos would need the help of condors still living in the wild to show them how to survive.

The National Audubon Society, dedicated to preserving bird life, brought a legal action that delayed trapping the birds for eight months, until last August.

The society said it feared the condor habitat would not be protected if none of the birds was there.

To overcome this obstacle, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bought an 11,000-acre ranch as a refuge for when the birds return.

One of the ways scientists are trying to increase the California condor population is by a technique called multiple clutching.

The birds normally produce one egg every two years. But if

that egg is removed soon after it is laid, the pair will produce a second egg the same year, scientists said. If the second egg is also removed, the pair may produce a third egg.

In this way, scientists have collected 15 eggs in the wild since 1983.

For the California condor, life has always had its problems.

Indian tribes in California once believed the condors could cause thunder and so sacrificed them in religious ceremonies.

Frontiersmen, under the mistaken impression the condor was a bird of prey, shot them in vast numbers and capes made of condor feathers were popular in the 1880s.

A recent problem has been hunters. The birds have died of metallic poisoning from eating animals that have been shot.

U.S. Legal Immigration

	1941-50	1951-60	1961-70	1971-80
Mexico	60,589	299,811	453,937	640,294
Caribbean	49,725	123,091	470,213	741,126
Central America	21,665	44,751	101,350	134,640
South America	21,831	91,628	257,954	295,741
Other	29,276	59,711	19,830	789
Total Latin America	183,086	618,992	1,303,064	1,812,590
Europe	621,124	1,325,640	1,123,363	800,368
Asia	32,360	150,106	427,771	1,588,178
Canada	171,718	377,952	413,310	109,939
Africa, and other	26,751	42,789	54,169	122,239
Grand total	1,035,039	2,515,479	3,321,677	4,493,314

Source: U.S. Immigration and Naturalisation Service.

U.S. aliens step out of the shadows

A new American law has made some illegal immigrants legal and doomed other "illegals" to remain on the fringes of society. Nancy Dunne picks a path through the amnesty minefield.

WASHINGTON — The red, white and blue balloons and streamers on the walls of the special immigration centre in the U.S. city of Baltimore, Maryland, symbolise for illegal aliens — now eligible for amnesty — that all is forgiven.

Marie Grant, a tall handsome Jamaican woman, ignored the festive decor and its welcoming posters of President Reagan and Mr. Edwin Meese, Attorney General. Instead, she nervously clutched a file of papers, which would prove that she and two of her three children had lived in the U.S. for seven years.

Her third child, a 19-year-old son, did not join the family in Maryland until March 1982, and thus is not eligible for the process which may ultimately bestow citizenship on Mrs. Grant and an estimated 4 million illegal immigrants. Although her son is unlikely to be deported, it may be years before he can escape the illegal immigrant's shadowy existence.

Except for her son, the family will have a stigma removed. "We will be like everyone else," said Mrs. Grant, a cleaner, who now hopes to open a small business. All over the U.S., illegal immigrants with their own hopes of what the amnesty will mean edged towards Meese — the much-feared offices of the immigration services, where they can get temporary resident's permits for a probationary period of 18 months. They may then become permanent residents for five years before attaining U.S. citizenship.

Most of the aliens, not ready to trust the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS), the symbol of deportation, made their way towards it through the hundreds of social service and volunteer offices set up around the country to help them gather evidence of eligibility for legalisation. They had to have entered the country before January 1, 1982.

The controversial and complex immigration reform law, which is responsible for the amnesty, gives with one hand and takes with another. Those who arrived illegally after 1981 may have to leave. Starting on June 1, all employers will have to request proof that prospective workers are legally in the country. The legislation provides for fines from \$250 to \$10,000 and other penalties for businesses which do not comply.

The new law, enacted last year after a six-year odyssey of compromises, will have far-reaching and uncertain consequences. No one knows if employers will comply with the regulations or risk hiring cheap undocumented workers. Or if they will discriminate against all foreign workers, as some civil libertarians fear. Or if unemployed immigrants, ineligible for amnesty, will return to the joblessness and poverty of their homelands.

Thousands of illegal immigrants have already reportedly fled to Canada and other countries. Mexico is reportedly braced for a flood of returning undocumented workers as well as deportations. Already, border patrol agents have reported a marked drop in arrests along the U.S.-Mexico

border, and the number smuggled in is said to have plummeted because of fears that jobs will not be available.

Although the INS expects 4 million aliens to sign up for legalisation, no one really knows how many eligible illegal immigrants exist. Estimates range from 2 million to 20 million.

It is by no means certain that the aliens will overcome their fear of authority to apply for amnesty. Legalisation schemes studied in Canada, Australia and Europe all had significantly fewer applicants than had been expected.

Congress and the Reagan administration have slashed the budget for immigration to \$10 million this year from the estimated cost of \$125 million. Much of the processing costs are to be borne by the immigrants themselves, who will be charged by the INS \$185 per applicant or \$240 per family. Other fees for medical examinations, counselling, photographs and fingerprinting may make legalisation too expensive for the poor.

Most illegal immigrants hold menial jobs and work for pay that U.S. citizens snub. Those who can afford to go legal could abandon their low-wage jobs, a development which could have a devastating effect on some businesses such as textiles, agriculture and foundries, which rely on them to compete against cheap labour in foreign countries.

No one knows if the law will be a cost or benefit to the government. A report by the General Accounting Office found that non-U.S. citizens, both legal and illegal, paid about \$19 billion in taxes in 1984 and received about the same amount in government benefits.

— Financial Times feature.

Hollywood comes to Nicaragua

By Matthew Campbell
Reuters

GRANADA, Nicaragua — This southern Nicaraguan city was in flames, blood-spattered bodies strewn in the streets and a band of gun-blazing U.S. mercenaries running amok through the graceful colonial square.

Even so, the locals turned out to watch.

It was not the real war, pitting U.S.-backed rebels against a leftist government, but a Hollywood crew making a film about William Walker, the only U.S. citizen ever to become Nicaragua's president.

"It's an insane story," says British-born director Alex Cox of his film about the 19th-century adventurer who led a band of 50 mercenaries to Nicaragua, seized power and ruled for two years before being executed by a firing squad.

"Walker was a crazy, mad individual," Cox told Reuters during a break in filming in this provincial capital 24 miles south of Managua. The square was about to go up in flames in a re-enactment of an 1857 battle in which a besieged Walker orders his men to put Granada to the torch.

Scheduled for release in November, Cox hopes the film, entitled "Walker," will shed light on Washington's historical involvement in Nicaragua, whose Sandinista government is the

target of U.S. military and economic pressure.

"There are parallels between what Walker did and what the Reagan administration does today," said Cox, a tall, ginger-moustached figure in jeans and T-shirt, easily recognised by the red bandanna he wears over his hair.

"Lying and claiming that you're supporting democracy when you are actually supporting genocide... that's totally contemporary," Cox said.

To juxtapose Walker's exploits and U.S. policy on Nicaragua now, the film uses many anachronisms, including a helicopter, a baseball bat and a Time magazine cover.

At one point, Walker's marauders stumble upon a wrecked aircraft, reminiscent of the U.S. plane Nicaragua downed last year leading to the capture of American Eugene Hasenfus on a mission to supply the rebels.

Walker's role is played by Ed Harris, who starred as U.S. astronaut John Glenn in "The Right Stuff." Marlee Matlin, who won an Oscar this year for her starring role in "Children of a Lesser God," plays Walker's deaf girlfriend, Ellen Martin.

The production designer, charged with creating the look and flavour of 19th-century Nicaragua, is Bruno Ruben, from the Oscar-winning picture, "Platoon," about the Vietnam war. Much of the cast took reduced

fees to support the film's political content, so that budget was kept to modest \$5 million, "Walker," publicity agent, Anne Wright, said.

Cox, whose credits include "Repo Man" and "Sid and Nancy" became interested in Walker and commissioned a script after reading a two-line reference to him in a magazine article.

Though little more than a footnote in most U.S. history books, Walker's quixotic Nicaraguan campaign made him a famous character in his day, and won him warm praise from his countrymen.

In Nicaragua, however, he has always been reviled as an arch-demon and symbol of "yankee imperialism," especially after the Sandinista-led revolution toppled U.S.-backed dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979.

Born in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1824, Walker was a doctor, lawyer and newspaper editor. He was jailed briefly on one occasion for upholding freedom of the press.

But after the death of his girlfriend in 1849, Walker became melancholy and paranoid, according to one biographer. In 1855 he set out to conquer Nicaragua with a band of 50 hired guns. He had botched an earlier attempt to take over the northern Mexican province of Sonora.

Skilfully inserting himself into a conflict between Nicaraguan conservatives and liberals, he

Miss Universe pageant puts Singapore in spotlight

By Kenneth L. Whiting
The Associated Press

SINGAPORE — Singapore officials are counting on the televised charms of Miss Universe to focus attention on this tiny island republic, hoping the exposure will boost its tourism industry.

The tourist promotion board describes the beauty pageant as the "most important single event ever to be staged in Singapore in terms of the amount of international publicity."

The final session, highlighted by the crowning of the new Miss Universe, is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. (0100 GMT) on May 27, putting the two-hour live television broadcast in the prime time evening slot in the United States.

"Approximately 600 million television viewers in over 50 countries worldwide will watch," said Joseph Chew, chairman of the organising committee and director of the tourist promotion board.

Viewers of the pageant, which faces opposition from feminists,

are expected to see the 68 contestants on location at the 100-year-old Raffles Hotel. Chinatown, "little India" and other exotic spots in Singapore.

The board estimates that such coverage normally would cost \$10 million. The free exposure is coming at an important time for Singapore's tourism industry.

The country has thousands of empty hotel rooms built on the basis of overly optimistic expectations of tourist traffic. Occupancy rates have slumped from 80 per cent to 60 per cent in the last four years and several new first-class hotels have postponed their openings indefinitely.

The tourist board estimates the number of visitors this year will grow by at least 3 per cent from last year's total of 3.2 million.

Although Singapore has a reputation for puritanical government, beauty contests are nothing new in the country. More than 50 were held on the island last year.

Singapore outbid four Latin American and European cities to stage the 36th annual version of the Miss Universe extravaganza, which will cost about \$3.5 million. The tourist board and the government-controlled Singapore Airlines are the main sponsors.

Not everyone is convinced that it is money well spent. Feminists denounce the pageant as an exploitive flesh parade and one newspaper questioned the tight controls imposed by Miss Universe Inc., a subsidiary of Paramount Pictures Corp.

Vivienne Wee, co-leader of the council of women's organisations task force for the prevention of violence against women, called the pageant "commercial exploitation of the female body for male pleasure."

Parliament member Aline Wong, a sociologist, said, "One wonders whether such activities really help to change the popular

image of women and whether such activities help to raise their status in society."

The association of women for action and research deplored the way Miss Universe hopefuls were used to lure men to a charity event at a disco.

The Sunday Times expressed concern that Singapore lacks control of the pageant.

The newspaper said in an editorial that those following the preparations "may be forgiven for wondering if Singapore is the host or just the backdrop to a successful 36-year-old formula."

"Hopefully, the end product being packaged for the world audience will do Singapore proud, or else winning the 'plum' in the Miss Universe stakes may turn out to be an expensive lesson on how not to buy publicity in a situation where the piper may be unable to call the tune," the newspaper said.

Randa Habib's Corner

Crazy bills

SOMETHINGS will never cease to amaze me around here, especially when it comes to bills.

Take for example the water bills. From now on a tax on sewage services representing 10 per cent of the water bill is imposed on each subscriber. The problem is that some of those subscribers live in areas where sewage facilities are not available yet. But if those subscribers try to explain their situation to officials of the Water Authority the only answer they get is: "You have to pay the bill as it is."

As for the eternal problem of crazy bills, nothing has been done so far. People living in 120-square-metre flats continue to receive water bills for as high as JD 750, because the water meters used by the authority register air passing through the pipes instead of water.

Sometimes, if one is lucky, an official at the Water Authority may recognise that there have been an error. He would then send someone to check your water meter, and if you are convincing enough the meter might get replaced. The water bill would then be amended and one would pay an average bill. But this, unfortunately, is not the end of it, because on your next bill you will be charged the average amount plus what is called "previous bill," presenting the difference that has already been reduced in the previous astronomical bill. You think there must have been an error somewhere, and that with the official paper of "exemption" on your crazy bill that you got from the Water Authority after setting the matter with them, things would soon be corrected. Wrong again. No official paper and no explanation would get you anywhere with the officials of the Water Authority. All you would hear, endlessly, is "This is a government bill and you have to pay it."

Not a long time ago a high ranking official said that the government would come down on the "computer-thieves," but what about robberies made by water meters or even human errors?

Minitel serves up pornography in France

By Mort Rosenblum
The Associated Press

PARIS — The Minitel, a small brown box that has revolutionised communications in France, has gotten carried away with its mission, authorities fear.

The computerised telephone has transformed not only the office and the kitchen in modern France but also, in many cases, the bedroom.

By tapping out a code on a keyboard, users can summon pornographic pictures or even talk dirty on an electronic screen.

"I do not want Minitel to be placed in the grand tradition of the Folies Bergere," said Gerard Longuet, minister of posts and telecommunications.

"Children can come across absolutely demented things by playing on these machines," said Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, whose morality campaigns have sparked a mix of sympathy, outrage and mockery among the French.

The Minitel surfaced in France in 1982 as an electronic telephone book. A computer terminal hooked to a phone line, it was installed free on demand at homes and businesses to save on directory assistance operators.

Soon 2,000 public and private services were available. Users could book restaurant tables, check horoscopes, swap recipes or shop for just about anything.

Now there are 2.7 million Minitels, one for every 10 telephones, with 6,000 commercial services. And among the most common uses is searching for companionship.

Minitel offers not only computerised prostitution but also message exchanges among people anxious to make dates with strangers.

Authorities face two problems in controlling it. The first is that messages exchanged are regarded as private letters that cannot be censored. The second is that Minitel brings in a fortune.

"We know that some people spend four and five hours a day on their Minitels, just talking," said Anne-Marie le Bevilion,

spokesman for the state-owned phone system.

At about 18 cents a minute, a four-hour daily Minitel habit can cost more than cocaine. Revenue is divided between the phone company and the commercial service renting space in the network.

The idea is simple. A user dials a number on a phone linked to a Minitel. The little brown box asks the user to type the call sign of the desired service. Options are selected by keyboard.

Most message services — les messageries — ask for a pseudonym and then offer a list of condemned people on the line at the moment or with messages on file.

At least 10 messageries deal in hard-core pornography, but most fall into the category of "convivial dialogue."

During the trial in France of accused Nazi officer Klaus Barbie, a reporter called one number and found a message waiting from someone condemned. Hitler. It said: "Death to Arabs and foreigners, send them to the gas chambers or the ovens."

State investigators closed one service in the south of France which dealt in adolescent prostitutes. For the most part, though, authorities can only ask for voluntary restraint.

Many people who fear AIDS prefer the vicarious thrill of obscene messages, separating themselves from partners by copper wire. Others use Minitel for jet-age cruising. Approaches are crude and direct.

"You would think they'd use a little imagination," said Sylvie Gueyne, a computer specialist who monitored one service out of curiosity. "They ask things like, 'do you have big breasts?'"

Authorities say they cannot estimate what percentage of Minitel time is spent in convivial dialogue. But they insist it is a small part of a resounding success story for the French phone system.

Most users seem to agree. One newsstand owner who preferred not to be named sells a range of directories and guides for Minitel services.

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Sweden gets Cup revenge

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (R) — Sweden gained a measure of revenge for last year's Davis Cup final defeat when they beat Australia in the \$750,000 world team cup on Wednesday.

Pat Cash, the hero of Australia's win in Melbourne, failed to capitalise on a match point in the second set to allow Anders Jarryd to fight back for a 1-6, 7-6, 7-5 victory in the second singles.

Earlier, Joakim Nystrom had won a hard-fought three-setter 6-2, 6-7, 7-6 against Paul McNamee to give the Swedes the lead. Jarryd's win gave Sweden a decisive 2-0 advantage before the doubles.

Jarryd, standing in for world number three Stefan Edberg who suffered a groin strain on Monday, was outclassed in the first set but began to find his touch in the second.

He trailed 6-5 in the tiebreak before winning it 9-7 and then won the decider 7-5 after twice serving for the set at 5-4 and 6-5. McNamee was unlucky to lose

his match after fighting back from 3-0 down in both the second and third sets. He won the first tiebreak 7-5 but Nystrom was well in control at the crunch, winning the third set tiebreak 7-1.

Sweden have now won both their round robin matches and are well placed to reach Sunday's final in the eight-nation tournament.

In the other red group match, Czechoslovakia and West Germany were level at 1-1 after the singles.

World number five Miloslav Mecir was surprisingly crushed 6-1, 6-1 by West German Eric Jelen, turning in a performance even absent Wimbledon champion Boris Becker might have envied.

Mecir, sometimes brilliant but

occasionally like on Wednesday woefully inept, was totally unable to find his timing one day after his 23rd birthday.

"I didn't know what was happening out there and I didn't know what to do about it," he said.

Jelen, ranked only 64th in the world and with six defeats out of six on clay this year before Wednesday's match, played a patient game and waited for Mecir to make the mistakes.

"The way I played him was exactly right," Jelen said. "If he plays well, he's better than me. I can only beat him when he's not so good."

Milan Srejber levelled the tie by beating Damir Keretic 7-6, 6-4 to leave the issue to be settled by the concluding doubles.

India agrees to play Israel in Davis Cup; 'no shift' in stand implied

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — The government has permitted the Indian tennis team to play with Israel in the Davis Cup quarter-final round, an official source said Wednesday.

The source said the decision "does not indicate a change in our policy towards Arab nations or our support for the Palestinian cause."

India will host the contest in New Delhi in July, said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The decision followed speculation in newspapers that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government was likely to allow the Israeli team into India as part of a new "tennis diplomacy" initiative to improve ties with Israel.

The independent Telegraph newspaper of Calcutta editorialised Wednesday that "the prime minister has clearly decided that

the time has come to play the Israeli card. For 40 years now India has been more loyal to the Arab cause than many of the Arabs themselves."

India has no diplomatic relations with Israel but recognises the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Khalid Al Sheikh, the PLO ambassador in New Delhi, expressed surprise at New Delhi's decision. He said his mission had not been told by the government that the Israeli team would be permitted to play in India.

Press reports said India has not played Israel in any international tournament since the 1974 Asian Games, an apparent indication of its political opposition to Israel's Middle East policy.

But the source said India played with Israel in table tennis tournaments in Belgrade in 1981 and in Tokyo in 1983.

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AMMAN DEFEATS QADISIEH 2 TO 0: Qadisieh player Maher Hantash (left) jumps over Amman players to head the ball during a match held on Tuesday night between Amman and Qadisieh clubs. The match, held within the Association Shield Tournament, was

won by Amman. The triumph qualified Amman to meet Al Faisali in the semifinals on Friday night. The winners will Monday take on Addu-tein club in the final match (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

American National League roundup

Cincinnati loss boosts Giants

NEW YORK (AP) — The San Francisco Giants are doing it with Mirrors and manager Roger Craig thinks they look mighty good atop the National League (NL) West.

"We haven't played well, but the amazing thing is we're still in first place," Craig said after the Giants beat the Montreal Expos 6-2 Tuesday night for only their second victory in the last eight games.

But Cincinnati's 9-2 loss to Chicago not only allowed the Giants to move a half-game ahead of the Reds but also gave the Cubs a one-game lead in the NL East over St. Louis, which lost to Atlanta 6-5.

The Giants have played much of the season with three-fourths of their infield — second baseman Robby Thompson, shortstop Jose Uribe and third baseman Chris Brown — on the disabled list. And their starting pitchers may as well have been disabled; Mike Lacoss' seven-inning effort marked the first time in nine games a starter has lasted past the sixth inning.

In other NL games, Pittsburgh beat Houston 5-2 and New York edged San Diego 5-4. The Los Angeles-Philadelphia game was rained out.

San Francisco's Jeffrey Leonard hit a solo home run in the first inning and a two-run

homer in the third as the Giants snapped Montreal's four-game winning streak. They added three runs in the fourth on Bob Melvin's homer, Thompson's double, Matt Williams' RBI single, a stolen base and Mark Wasinger's single.

The Giants did all their damage against Floyd Youmans, who was making his first appearance after spending 15 days on the disabled list with a back strain.

Rick Sutcliffe became the NL's first seven-game winner as the Cubs won their fifth in a row. Chicago rapped out 15 hits, including four singles by Andre Dawson and three by Jody Davis,

Jaite gives Argentina lead over defending champion France

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (AP) — Martin Jaite sparked Argentina to a 2-1 upset victory over defending champion France in the opening group match of the \$750,000 Peugeot World Team Cup Tennis Tournament.

Czechoslovakia rolled over Australia 3-0 in the other group match played Tuesday. Meanwhile, the trainer for

Sweden's Stefan Edberg said the world's number 3 player suffered a groin injury in Monday's play and might have to miss the French Open that starts next week in Paris.

Jaite, a runnerup at last week's Italian Open, clinched victory for his country by beating France's Henri Leconte 7-7, 7-6 after veteran Guillermo Vilas had downed Thierry Tulasne 7-6, 6-2

in the opening match of the day. In doubles play, Leconte teamed with Guy Forget to defeat Jaite and Vilas 6-4, 6-3.

In the other group, Miloslav Mecir beat Pat Cash 6-4, 7-6 and Milan Srejber defeated Wally Masur 6-3, 7-6 to give Czechoslovakia a decisive 2-0 edge against Australia.

Mecir and Tomas Smid then defeated Cash and Paul McNamee 6-1, 6-4 to complete the whitewash.

Jaite's victory over Leconte was full of tense moments. The Frenchman held three set points in the first set before losing it 7-5 in the tiebreaker.

Leconte then saved two match points in an equally tight second set at 5-6 before going down 7-1 in the tiebreaker that followed. Mecir celebrated his 23rd birthday with his victory over Cash. But the unpredictable Czechoslo-

Soviet gymnasts set to dominate Europe

MOSCOW (R) — A new generation of Soviet gymnasts looks set to continue the country's domination of the European Gymnastics Championships starting here on Thursday.

The rise of new young Soviet talent has done much to counter the absence of European champion Dmitri Belozzerchev, and they look capable of winning the overall individual title for the eighth time in the last nine championships.

Soviet experts predict a tough struggle for first place between world titleholder Yuri Korolev and recently crowned Soviet champion Valery Lyukin, a 20-year-old student who is the pick of a group of promising newcomers.

The other main challengers for the title Belozzerchev won in Oslo in 1985 before he was banned from the national squad after breaking a leg while driving when intoxicated, were mainly from the East Bloc, they said.

East German Sylvio Karoli was likely to provide the toughest challenge, but strong opposition in some events could also come from Hungary and the rising Swiss, the experts said.

In the women's events, world champion Yelena Shushunova, 17, looks set to retain the overall European title after hitting form by winning the Soviet championships earlier this year.

Like the Soviet men, who have won the championship 11 times out of 16, the women have dominated the championships.

THE Daily Crossword by Frank Geary

ACROSS

- 1 Division word
- 5 Solo
- 9 Solitude
- 13 Vault
- 14 Peals
- 16 Genesis name
- 17 Michigan or Huron
- 18 Relax
- 20 Disburied
- 22 Made even
- 23 Moderate red
- 24 Refugee gp.
- 27 Altar
- 28 Contributes
- 32 Exclamation
- 33 Equivocate
- 35 Surrealist painter
- 36 Hamlets
- 38 Pigeon pea
- 39 Inquired
- 40 Therefore
- 41 Woodland
- 43 Holiday time
- 44 Breastbone
- 46 Cylindrical and tapering
- 48 — Aviv
- 49 Eupire
- 50 Carouse
- 53 — the hole
- 56 Reproach
- 58 Swiss river
- 60 Ruler
- 61 — Dame
- 62 Ariz. Indian
- 63 Sword
- 64 Sign gas
- 65 QED word

DOWN

- 1 Aliments
- 2 Tide
- 3 Grasp the reins
- 4 Household utensil
- 5 Actor Carney
- 6 Inlet
- 7 Colored tape
- 8 Author James
- 9 Certain shipments
- 10 Bury as —
- 11 Peruse
- 12 Wapiti
- 15 Redeemer
- 19 Swiss city
- 21 Stumbles
- 24 — jiffy
- 25 Infrequently
- 27 Curt
- 28 Take out
- 29 Scram
- 30 Student in Paris
- 31 Faction
- 32 Fruit drinks
- 34 Popeye is one
- 37 Doorway curtain
- 39 Roman rooms
- 41 Steamboat man
- 42 Homily: abbr.
- 45 Tree home
- 47 Get away
- 49 Gab
- 50 Inclined way
- 51 Migrant farmer
- 52 Eng. school
- 54 "My Friend —"
- 55 Shipshape
- 56 Pipe joint
- 57 Hit sign letters
- 58 Stabber or Berry

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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- 9 Solitude
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Performances 3:30, 5:10, 9:00, 10:45

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 6251553
SUDDEN DEATH
Performances 3:15, 5:10, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **OPERA** Tel: 675573
NEVER SAY NEVER AGAIN
Performances 3:15, 5:15, 8:45, 10:45

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 6774201
DIAMOND HAUL
Performances 3:30, 5:10, 9:00, 10:45

Cinema **RAGHADAN** Tel: 622198
CLASH OF THE NINJAS
Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 9:45

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6877/87	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.3460/70	Canadian dollar
	1.7690/700	West German marks
	2.9940/50	Dutch guilders
	1.4500/10	Swiss francs
	36.64/57	Belgian francs
	5.9190/9240	French francs
	1283/1284	Italian lira
	139.55/65	Japanese yen
	6.2050/2100	Swedish crown
	6.5775/5825	Norwegian crowns
	6.6550/6600	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	480.60/481.10	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The threat of a fresh crisis over lending to Third World countries and an opinion poll showing a narrowing in the gap between the ruling Conservatives and the main opposition Labour Party pushed shares down sharply Wednesday morning and kept prices near the lows throughout the day, dealers said. By 1416 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 40.9 to 2,173.4, after an earlier low of 2,170.7.

Wall Street's sharp sell off overnight looked set to be continued at the opening there Wednesday and could send shares here yet lower in late trading. Rising U.S. inflation and interest rates have been worrying U.K. investors recently.

Long standing worries about Third World bank debt exposure were resurrected on Wednesday after news that Citicorp is adding \$3 billion to its loan loss reserves and foresees a second quarter loss of \$2.5 billion.

A statement from the Bank of England that it expects a continuing increase in the level of provisions at U.K. banks for potential loan losses in the sovereign lending sector further deepened the gloom surrounding bank shares here.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: If you have anything of particular importance to be attended to, it should be done now to avoid the delays and obstacles on the horizon. Don't do anything drastic.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can handle a private affair very wisely. Roll up your sleeves and get to work with a vengeance.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Listen to the views of a good friend. Your mate may be disturbed, but keep poised and take this in stride.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You can handle an outside matter with alacrity. Don't try to get the aid of others with your projects.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You get an inspiring idea today, so get it in motion. Use tact and tenacity for best results.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Settle an account wisely. Should your mate be moody, blame it on the planets. Show that you can be patient.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) An outside associate has good ideas for your mutual advancement. Don't invite guests into your home now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) It's a good day to listen to what an outside partner has to advise. Much care in driving is needed today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Try a new tact with the tasks before you and get good results. Try not to commit yourself now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get out to fun places and forget your worries, but don't try to force your ideas on others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Place your efforts on home and family today. A close tie may be upset, but take this in stride.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Place more effort on your regular duties. Forget the social life all together. Get your wardrobe in order.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Think about how to handle your material affairs in a better way. Don't try to gain favors from bigwigs.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will be one of those charming young people who should be taught to think along more conventional lines. By not completing things, your progeny could find much trouble, especially in school. Add psychology courses to help curb this child's spunk.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today finds you able to get to those who have the knowledge or the power to make your dreams come true. But wait for more specific plans before taking action.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get your tasks well organized. Curb that tendency to go after your personal aims too quickly.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A fine pal is helpful with your personal goals. Try not to be too demanding with your mate.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You have an opportunity to get a worldly matter in fine order. Not a good day to push your personal wishes.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You get a sudden inspiration! Get a good start on your activities. Venture out and be social tonight.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Find the proper way to keep any promises you have made. Don't go off on any tangents that could prove dangerous.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A long talk with an outside partner may bring good results. Be patient with your mate and don't criticize.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You know how to handle present tasks more efficiently. Don't permit an associate to bother you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Plan time for the recreations you like. Be most conscientious in handling your work load.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Make everything at home as you want it to be, then handle difficult problems in creative matters.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Study every phase of the messages you get, then answer them. Be patient in any home situations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can handle your practical affairs well. Be careful in your correspondence or telephone calls.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You can gain your personal ambitions now. Don't do anything that could endanger your security.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will be most capable at understanding idealistic ideas and carry through with them to a successful conclusion, but the adulthood is apt to be unstable in this area. Self control will soon be learned, however, and then much success is possible here.

W. Germany to reduce stake in national airline

FRANKFURT (R) — Lufthansa, the West German airline, said Tuesday the government would reduce its stake in the company.

The airline said it planned to raise 810 million marks (\$450 million) by issuing new shares, but that the government would contribute only 312 million marks (\$173 million).

"That means that the share of private shareholders will rise," Lufthansa said in a statement.

Public authorities would still own over 75 per cent of the airline after the transaction. The federal government, the post office, railways, a state bank and the state of North Rhine Westphalia now own 82 per cent of all Lufthansa shares and 90 per cent of shares with voting rights.

Political sources in Bonn said the move was in line with government policy of expanding private ownership of public companies.

But it stopped short of the sell-off of the airline sought by Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg.

That was vigorously opposed by Bavarian right-winger, Mr.

Franz Josef Strauss, head of the Christian Social Union, partners in the Bonn coalition.

Mr. Stoltenberg has tried to sell off part of the government's stake in Lufthansa since Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition came to power in 1982.

But Mr. Strauss, chief of Lufthansa's supervisory board and also head of the West German wing of the European Airbus consortium, has said this is not in the national interest.

Lufthansa also said it planned at a later stage to issue more non-voting shares, but that this would not affect the government's ability to control Lufthansa.

The political sources believed Mr. Strauss was still opposed to privatising the airline but said he would not have objected to this reduction in the government's stake, which maintains state control.

Since 1982, the government has privatised the industrial giant Veba and it also plans to sell its share of carmaker Volkswagen to the public.

World Bank approves \$500m credit to Argentina

WASHINGTON (AP) — The World Bank on Tuesday approved \$500 million in credit to support fundamental reforms in Argentina's foreign trade.

A statement by the 151-nation body said the loan was designed to make Argentine exports more competitive. The credit was extended for a 15-year period, including three years of grace, at a variable interest rate, currently at 7.92 per cent.

This is the largest per-capita loan ever granted by the bank. Bank officials said it was approved with the support of the United States and all the major industrialised nations.

The bank, which assists in economic and social development, said that in addition to the loan, it is considering a project of export promotion that would remove all the barriers on the country's foreign trade.

That would include a three-year phasing out of all restrictions on the import of raw materials to Argentina in order to promote industrial growth, the statement said.

The bank said the new programme would encourage international bankers to make additional investments in Argentina and result in economic growth, the creation of new jobs and a healthy balance of payments in Argentina.

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Citicorp debt move rings alarm bells in world financial markets

LONDON (R) — Worries about Third World debt and the health of the banking system Wednesday sent the gold price to its highest since early 1983.

The dollar slipped, and share and bond prices tumbled across the globe in financial markets fretting after a move Tuesday by Citicorp, the world's largest bank group, effectively writing off \$3 billion of its loans to developing nations.

Tokyo's stock market took the second biggest one-day nosedive in its history.

Later, however, dealers in Europe grew somewhat less nervous. The dollar steadied and gold — a safe haven for investors in time of stress in the global economy — eased back from \$483 an ounce to a London morning setting at \$479.95.

Still, that was nearly \$10 up on Tuesday night's London price and the highest London "fix" since February, 1983.

The dollar at midday in Europe fetched around 139.60 yen, after dipping as low as 139.30. It had ended in London Tuesday night just above 140 yen.

The announcement came too late for U.S. markets but rumours that Citicorp planned a debt move preceded it and they sent U.S. treasury bonds, the dollar and stocks into a slide. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average closed 37 points down at 2,258.8.

Next, in Tokyo's stock market

took its second biggest one-day dive on record and the Nikkei average closed Wednesday 658.28 points down at 23,419.60.

Tokyo stock and bond markets plunged on what brokers said were worried that Third World debt exposure may throw the health of the world financial systems into doubt.

"Japanese banks also lend much money to Latin American countries," said Mr. Toranobu Sugai, vice president for Japanese equity trade at Shearson Lehman Brothers' Tokyo branch.

Japan is the largest creditor nation. The selloff in the Tokyo stock market centred on financial shares, particularly banks, securities houses and insurance.

The jitters spread to Europe when the dealers in money, and in the investment instruments in which the affluent world keeps its savings and pensions, flicked on their screens there.

In London, where the weaker dollar was also a worry, the Financial Times stock exchange index of 100 leading shares at midday was 35.6 down at 2,178.7. Bank shares fell, with Lloyds, for instance, off 35 pence (60 cents) at \$5.50 (\$9.24) in early trading.

Dealers said the London falls would have been more substantial but for optimism about a Conservative Party majority in the June 11 general election.

London prices of U.S. government bonds fell more than 3/8 of a percentage point in early trading. Dealers said the market was nervous, with selling pressure coming Japanese and European accounts.

The Frankfurt bourse opened lower. The 50-share Paris bourse indicator fell 1.7 per cent in early business.

But as the trading day wore on, and analysts in the dealing rooms struggled to puzzle out the implications of Citicorp's action, there was some feeling that the initial "knee-jerk" reaction might have been overdone. So the dollar steadied and gold came off its highs.

Mr. Franz Luetolf, general manager of Swiss Bank Corp., said in Zurich that the Citicorp move was an important step in handling the debt crisis.

Mr. Luetolf, who coordinates his bank's debt strategy, told Reuters: "I welcome this step. It's absolutely right. We banks have to build up reserves. People will very quickly realise that the increase in reserves will have a stabilising effect."

Mr. Luetolf said he doubted the Citicorp move would encourage debtors to feel that old loans did not need to be repaid.

"It is absolutely a sign of strength," he said.

Arab oil ministers reaffirm OPEC price, quota decisions

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf oil ministers led by Saudi Arabia have agreed on the need to keep oil prices at \$18 a barrel and to stick to OPEC-set quota levels, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said Wednesday.

Ministers from six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — responsible for some 40 per cent of OPEC production — met late Tuesday night to map out a joint strategy for the OPEC meeting in Vienna next month.

A communiqué carried by SPA said the ministers agreed OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) should adhere to the quota and price levels set at its last conference in Geneva in December.

Soon after the GCC statement, Indonesian Energy Minister Subroto — regarded as OPEC's elder statesman — added his weight to calls for keeping to quotas for the third and fourth quarters.

"I think that at the next OPEC meeting we should adhere to the decision agreed in December 1986," Dr. Subroto told Reuters in Jakarta.

The December agreement, which cut the group's ceiling to 15.8 million barrels per day (b/d) for the first half of this year, helped boost prices close to a benchmark of \$18 a barrel set at the meeting.

It also said ceilings in the third and fourth quarter ceilings should rise to 16.6 million b/d and 18.3 million b/d respectively, provided there was sufficient demand.

Some OPEC ministers have said the stronger oil markets have given the group the option of raising prices or increasing the production ceilings, but GCC leaders have made it clear they would not allow prices to rise.

The GCC communiqué said the ministers agreed on the following:

"A) — The necessity of adhering to the agreement which OPEC reached last December on production levels for each member and the production ceiling for each period of that year and

B) — To stick to the oil prices set in the last OPEC agreement in order to maintain oil market stability and the balance between supply and demand until the end of December 1987."

The GCC comprises Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar and non-OPEC members Oman and Bahrain.

Oil traders had been looking to the GCC talks to see whether the UAE would accept the quota set for it in December.

UAE Oil Minister Mana Said Al Oteiba had said this month his country would ignore its quota if the level were not raised in June. But it was not clear at the time whether he was insisting on more than the increase provisionally allotted in December.

The December accord envisaged the UAE quota rising from 902,000 b/d in the first half to 948,000 in the third quarter and 1,045 million in the fourth.

Speaking on behalf of five environmentalist groups, Mr. Scoullos said sulphur dioxide emissions from the plant, expected to burn up to 1,200 tonnes of crude oil a year, would equal those found in the atmosphere of a large city.

Even if fuel with a low sulphur content were used, it would cause the marble monuments at Delphi to crumble, he said.

Environmentalists call on Greece to scrap major alumina plant

ATHENS (R) — Environmentalist groups called on the Greek government Tuesday to abandon plans to build an industrial plant near the town of Delphi, saying pollution from the factory would damage the ancient site.

Mr. Michael Scoullos, president of the Greek Society for the Protection of the Environment and Cultural Heritage, urged the government to find an alternative location for the factory, which will produce alumina, from which aluminium is made.

The plant is to be built by the village of Aghia Efthymia, 11 kilometres away from Delphi.

"(The factory) will be a monument to the rejection of every aesthetic and cultural value," he told reporters.

The factory, a Greek-Soviet joint venture forecast to be operational by 1992, will cost an estimated \$500 million — the biggest investment in Greece for 20 years according to Greek government officials.

Speaking on behalf of five environmentalist groups, Mr. Scoullos said sulphur dioxide emissions from the plant, expected to burn up to 1,200 tonnes of crude oil a year, would equal those found in the atmosphere of a large city.

Even if fuel with a low sulphur content were used, it would cause the marble monuments at Delphi to crumble, he said.

Peanuts



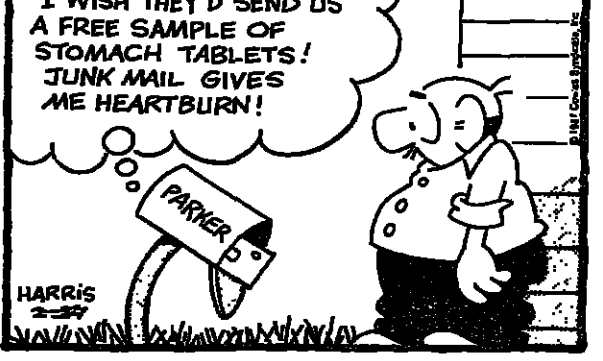
Mutt'n' Jeff



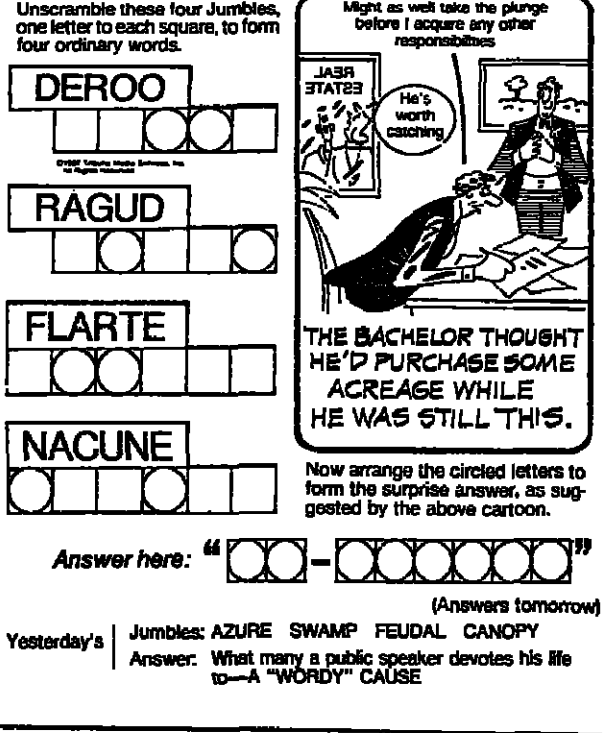
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE



Racial violence erupts in Fiji

Governor-general holds talks with chiefs

SUVA (R) — Racial violence erupted in Suva Wednesday leaving some 35 Indians injured as Governor-General Sir Penaia Ganilau appealed for calm and held talks with Fijian chiefs to restore democracy after last week's coup.

Central Suva was deserted Wednesday night after ethnic Indians fled the business district to escape gangs of indigenous Fijian youths roaming the normally busy streets.

The men, women and children were injured when Fijian mobs attacked Indians at a rally in support of Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra's government which was ousted in a military takeover on May 14.

Bavadra, released from detention Tuesday night by coup leader Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, had planned to address the rally but did not show up following the disturbances.

Fijians hurled rocks and bottles into the crowd and in nearby streets Indian-owned shops, cars and taxis were wrecked.

the islanders — both Fijians and Indians.

The sources said a number of council members were in favour of passing a vote of no confidence in Ganilau which could pave the way for Fiji becoming a republic.

However, no formal statement has yet been made.

Indians slightly outnumber the Fijians in the nation's 714,000 population. Fijian anger grew after Dr. Bavadra's Indian-dominated coalition defeated the Fijian-supported Alliance Party in elections last month.

Ganilau, appointed by Britain's Queen Elizabeth who is also Fiji's head of state, refused to swear in Col. Rabuka's rebel council of ministers as the caretaker government.

The governor-general, in a proclamation Wednesday, declared vacant the office of the prime minister and all his appointees pending new elections. He earlier said he was assuming executive authority with the agreement of Col. Rabuka.

Ganilau delayed announcing his own panel of advisers to run the government pending a recommendation from the council of chiefs.

Diplomatic sources said the governor-general's hesitation reflected the weakness of his position against the traditional power of the chiefs and the military authority of Col. Rabuka.

Col. Rabuka appealed for calm over state radio Wednesday and stressed that the army was still out in force and would deal with any acts of public disorder.

The Commonwealth has offered its support to Fiji's governor-general in helping to restore the Pacific island nation to democracy. Commonwealth Secretary-General Sir Shridath Ramphal said Tuesday.

Ramphal said in a statement issued in London that the 49-state organisation, which consists of Britain and its former colonies and territories, was ready to offer assistance to Ganilau.

Webster takes over CIA

WASHINGTON (AP) — William Webster, who as FBI director built good relations with Congress, takes over the CIA at a time when the spy agency's reputation on Capitol Hill has seldom been worse.

Mr. Webster was confirmed Tuesday by the Senate, becoming the 14th director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) which has agents throughout the world and a corps of analysts at its headquarters near Washington.

Mr. Webster promised in confirmation hearings last month that he would keep congressional oversight committees fully informed of the CIA's activities, which cost an estimated \$3 billion last year.

His confirmation comes as the Iran-contra hearings bring to light details of the CIA's role in covert U.S. arms sales to Iran and its involvement in assisting the Nicaraguan rebels under the late Director William Casey.

COLUMNS 7&8

Sweden becomes more equal than others

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden, renowned for its social equality, is the most classless country in the world, according to a government study. The report, by the Central Bureau of Statistics, plots the progress of social conditions, class structure and equality between 1975 and 1985 and concludes that Sweden is making most progress towards breaking down barriers of sex and class. "Social mobility is greater in Sweden than in other countries and it has also increased... because society has become more open to class movement," the report said. "At present we have limited scope for making international comparisons, but as far as we can see, inequality in Sweden is less marked than in other countries," it added. The study said that Swedish women had gained much ground in securing equal pay for equal work, but that higher-educated women were still losing out to their male colleagues.

French director wins Golden Palm

CANNES, France (R) — French Director Maurice Pialat's selection for the coveted Golden Palm at the Cannes International Film Festival provided a controversial finale to a star-studded 40th anniversary extravaganza. Pialat, chosen for *Sons of the Sun* (Under the Sun of Satan), an adaptation of French Roman Catholic writer Georges Bernanos' novel about a priest tempted by the devil, was booed and whistled derisively when French Actress Catherine Deneuve announced he had won the top prize. The director, known for his sharp tongue, told the audience: "I am not going to fail my reputation. I'm happy for the whistles. If you don't like me, I can tell you that I don't like you either." He defiantly punched the air three times and left. One commentator said on French television later that foreign directors would no longer take Cannes seriously after the Pialat selection. It was the first time since 1966, when Claude Lelouch won for *A Man and a Woman*, that France was accorded the Golden Palm.

Parents left children to visit Cannes

PARIS (R) — Police arrested a married couple who abandoned their eight children aged 10 months to 12 years to attend the Cannes film festival. Four of the children were left at home in northern France and four were left by the roadside in southern France, police said. Four roamed country lanes for three days before being discovered exhausted and hungry, police from the southern city of Toulon said. The parents were detained in a routine police check as they hitch-hiked in southern France. They face up to two years in prison for abandoning the children.

Superman turns 50

NEW YORK (R) — Superman, America's first comic book "super-hero," is turning 50 and his publishers have planned a year-long celebration almost as elaborate as the Statue of Liberty's recent 100th birthday party. Included, according to plans released Tuesday by DC Comics are: a major exhibit of Superman comic strips and "artifacts"; a new Superman film starring Christopher Reeve; a television special and a gala birthday party on Feb. 29, 1987 — the date the publishers claim the "man of steel" was born. Cleveland, Ohio, the city where Superman's creators, Joel Siegel and Jerry Shuster, came from, is planning to put up a statue. Despite his age, Superman "doesn't look a day older than when we launched him in the spring of 1938," said Jeanette Kahn, president DC Comics.

4 Japanese held in Tokyo for allegedly selling U.S. secrets

TOKYO (Agencies) — Four Japanese men passed on U.S. military documents to Soviet and Chinese buyers for several years, police charged Wednesday. U.S. military officials were investigating the extent of the possible security damage.

The four suspects include a current and a former employee of U.S. military facilities.

Police said the men are suspected of selling documents to Soviet diplomats and Chinese buyers, but that no details were available on the alleged deals with the Chinese, who may or may not have been government officials.

The four men were arrested Tuesday after one allegedly attempted to give U.S. military documents to a Soviet diplomat in a Tokyo park.

Police said they seized documents and equipment that pointed to a longtime operation that included transactions in a cemetery and orders issued by short-wave from the Soviet Union.

They said the four received a total of more than \$714,000 for the documents.

U.S. military officials, who initially alerted Japanese police to the matter, refused to comment on the nature of the documents involved.

The United States is studying the damage caused by the ring but leaving the investigation to the Japanese, said Lieutenant-Colonel John T. Kirkwood, deputy director of the fifth air force public affairs division.

Police arrested Hiromi Date, 62, when he met V.B. Aksentov of the Soviet trade representative's office at a park in western Tokyo to hand over documents, said a police official, who could not be identified in keeping with regulations. Police refused to describe the documents.

A spokesman said police had also questioned Mr. Aksentov, who left Japan for Moscow Wednesday morning.

The police accused Hiroshi Ohsumi, 65, an employee at the U.S. Yokota airbase, of taking secret documents in March and giving them to Masateru Tachibana, 59, a writer on military affairs.

Mr. Tachibana, who once worked at another U.S. base in Japan, then sold the documents to Mr. Date, an adviser to a private Chinese technical centre, and Sadao Gotoh, 60, an executive of a trading company, the spokesman said.

He said Mr. Date was arrested as he tried to hand the documents to Mr. Aksentov.

Boeing admits faulty repairs contributed to JAL crash

SEATTLE, Washington (AP) — The Boeing Co. has admitted its faulty repairs were one of the causes of a Japan Air Lines (JAL) crash that killed 520 people in history's worst single-plane accident.

Boeing is being sued in King county superior court by families of 77 victims. JAL was dropped from the lawsuit late last week by the families.

Preliminary drafts of a

Japanese government investigation into the accident have blamed a repair Boeing made to 747's aft pressure bulkhead, a structure that separates the Jumbo jet's pressurised passenger compartment from the unpressurised rear.

Boeing initially admitted the faulty repairs, but did not relate the repairs to the crash in a mountainous area of Japan.

Death toll from China's forest fire exceeds 200

PEKING (R) — More than 200 people have been killed and thousands of acres of rich timberland destroyed in forest fires that have raged out of control in north-east China for two weeks, the official press said Wednesday.

China Daily said the fire, the worst in memory, had swept through 600,000 hectares (1.48 million acres) of land, more than half of its forest, had left 50,000 people homeless and more than 220 seriously injured.

People's Daily said the western face of the fire had reached the Heilongjiang River, marking the border with the Soviet Union, and threatened to spread into areas so far spared.

It said new fires in the west had surrounded a forest farm whose workers had been evacuated by helicopter and were approaching stretches of China's richest forestland.

The newspaper said rein forcements had been sent to the western sector, bringing the number of fire-fighters there to 17,400, half the total involved in the whole operation.

It said fire in the eastern sector was being kept almost under control because of a 260-kilometre firebreak.

People's Daily quoted the State Council (cabinet) as calling Tuesday for the "mobilisation of all forces" to combat the blaze and praising the firefighters for their devotion and fearlessness.

China Daily said helicopters surveying the blaze reported that huge columns of blue, yellow and black smoke over the dark, burnt earth had turned the whole sky a reddish yellow.

The woods below were ablaze with leaping and rolling flames, the paper said.

Basque gunmen reportedly kidnap Spanish businessman

BILBAO (R) — Three gunmen who said they belonged to the Basque separatist organisation ETA kidnapped a Spanish businessman after breaking into his home near this northern industrial city, police said Wednesday.

Andres Gutierrez Blanco, 65, who owns an engineering firm, was seized Tuesday afternoon, given sedatives and taken away by car, they said. The gunmen tied up his wife, a household servant and the caretaker of the

apartment block where he lived. The kidnapping was the first this year by guerrillas fighting for a separate state in the Basque region of northern Spain. It follows ETA car-bombings which killed a woman and hurt nine other people in Madrid on Sunday.

It also coincides with the start this week of campaigning for June 10 elections to local councils, regional assemblies and the European parliament.

Argentine military chiefs take oath of allegiance

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Three top military chiefs have taken an oath of allegiance to the constitution in an unprecedented ceremony a month after the worst military crisis of Argentina's young democracy.

The head of the joint chiefs of staff, Brigadier General Teodoro Waldner, navy chief-of-staff Vice-Admiral Ramon Arosa and his air force counterpart Brigadier General Ernesto Crespo swore the oath in the presence of President Raul Alfonsin to defend the constitution.

The ceremony at Government House was the first time in Argentina that heads of the armed forces had taken such an oath, although they were preceded by army chief-of-staff General Jose Cardel.

A law making the ceremony of

oath obligatory came into effect officially Tuesday.

Gen. Cardel took the oath a month ago when he took office after an officer rebellion against trials for human rights violations under military rule. He replaced General Hector Rios Erenu, who retired.

The ceremony, attended by most of Mr. Alfonsin's cabinet and several congressmen, was held as the senate prepares to debate a bill that would shelter from prosecution officers who prove they were following order when rights abuses were committed.

The executive bill offered last week by Mr. Alfonsin, who came to power in 1983 ending eight years of military rule, has been passed by the lower house of congress.

Over 500 reportedly arrested in Peruvian general strike

LIMA (R) — Peru's main Labour confederation has said that more than 500 people had been arrested and at least two injured, one with a bullet wound, in the country's first general strike in more than two years.

The General Confederation of Peruvian Workers (CGTP), which called Tuesday's 24-hour strike against President Alan Garcia's economic policies, said the arrest of its members was an attack on the constitutional right of public assembly.

In a statement it said 268 people had been arrested in Lima and 280 in the rest of Peru.

It said one striker was hit by a bullet fired by troops and another was hurt in a clash with backers of the ruling Apra Party.

Police and troops backed by armoured cars fired tear gas earlier to keep strikers away from the square outside CGTP headquarters, where they had planned to hold a rally.

Sen. Pacheco said the strike, to protest against unemployment, restrictive labour laws and the failure of the government to improve workers' purchasing power, was 90 per cent successful.

Labour Minister Orestes Rodriguez told reporters however that up to 80 per cent of the workforce ignored the strike.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

RUDDY GOOD!
By Rita M. Telle

Edited by Herb Ettemson

ACROSS

- 1 Apple-related
- 2 Son of Jacob
- 10 Corolla test
- 11 Gable
- 12 Gable
- 13 City south
- 14 Gable
- 15 Gable
- 21 Performer
- 22 Gable
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Diagrams

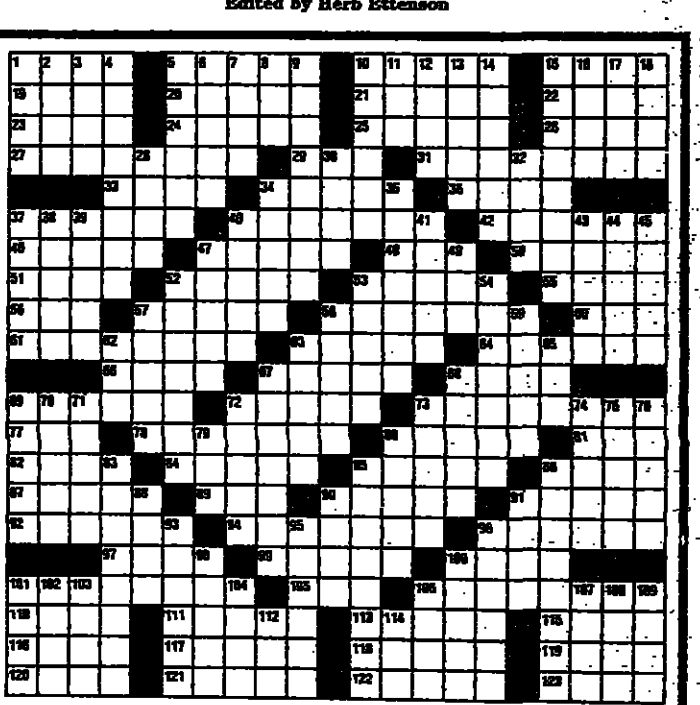
17 X 17, by Roger Coburn

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Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Erasable ink is the best invention since man discovered all his ailments.

2. Friendly banker lent very needed bankroll to lame olive farmer in Italy.

3. In bridge we are all permitted to trump but not allowed to renege.

4. Ormery bag lady lifted another lady's fine soft handbag.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. YZ YAWK AM MITGATYGM EGLZ INTO HARG

FOG DGCFOGL YIMFHZ THINKE DAFO

ITTCMAIWCX KCLR IEGLTCLP. —Len Sherry

2. MONXCT NM PNFNOFLCT MORCGHPLW

SPNRC FVWV MBRFG GBNHT BSCN

XVHBMRO ERTFL. —By Gordon Miller

3. XYZQABY YCE QCD JZQ AORJOV QCD

QEPBR XPCVE APV XVCSE BOD QOQQCD

—By Philip F. Brennan

4. EWIENZ ANCCXITZ OEW CLOWNLE

WJOYLG AOAXXY. —By Barbara J. East

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

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